



Coleman's 50th
Anniversary Booklet



Published by the Coleman Board of Trade



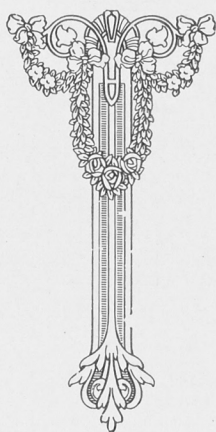
Thank You



The Coleman Board of Trade takes this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed in any way to make this book a success. We especially want to thank the advertising sponsors, without whose financial aid we would have been unable to publish this booklet.

WILLIAM HOLYK,
Advertising Chairman

Coleman's 50th
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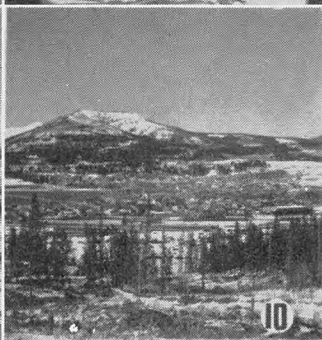
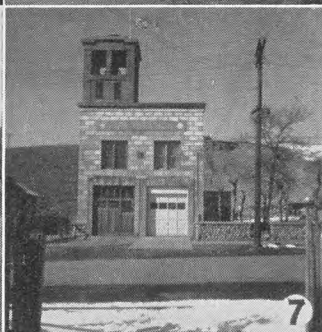


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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

ALBERTA



- 1 Football on 6th St. in early days
- 2 Post Office, 1953
- 3 Flood in 1923
- 4 Main Street in early days
- 5 Roxy Theatre, 1953

- 6 Bank of Commerce, 1953
- 7 Fire Hall, 1953
- 8 3rd Street, 1953
- 9 & 10 General views of Coleman

Such chiefs as Running Wolf, Big Swan and Cross Chief of the North Peigans, with their allies from the Bloods, Blackfeet and Sarcees, fought a bloody battle against their hereditary enemies and succeeded in driving them from their stronghold.

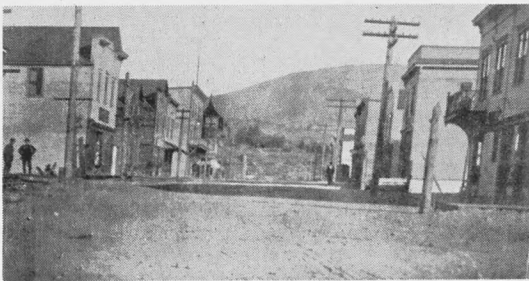
Soon after the arrival of the North-West Mounted Police in 1874, a few hardy settlers began to settle in The Pass. By 1885, a little coal was being mined but the size of the tremendous field had not yet been determined. It was not until 1898, when the Canadian Pacific Railway entered The Pass, that any great development was started.

Coleman was laid out on McGillivray Hill in 1903 and the name "Coleman" was chosen a year later by A. C. Flumerfelt, President of the International Coal and Coke Company. The hamlet quickly thrived as miners thronged to the area and by 1904 it had gained village status. Six years later, in 1910, Coleman became a town.

Since that time, Coleman has developed from a tiny mining settlement into a bustling modern community. It now boasts up-to-date stores, hotels, theatres, and other business houses. It is well known for its sports enthusiasm and has won awards for hockey, baseball, and other events. Tennis, bowling, basketball, curling and badminton are also popular in Coleman.

The following is an excerpt from the Provincial Government Economic Survey of the Town of Coleman:

"Coleman is located in a valley or pass which cuts through the Rockies and provides a passage for rail and road transportation to the Pacific. It lies near the base of a magnificent mountain whose towering, snow-capped peak—the "Crow's Nest"—gives the Pass its name. The view in any direction from the town is magnificent.



Main Street in Early Days

Europe, the British Isles and Nova Scotia.

"The town is supported by its coal mining industry. It is a unique community which is spread out along the valley. The town itself has a population of 1,961 and about the same number of people reside on the outskirts of the town. It has a mixed racial population, many having migrated from central and southern

Mr. J. Morino of Blairmore has been given the distinction of being Coleman's first aggressive building contractor.

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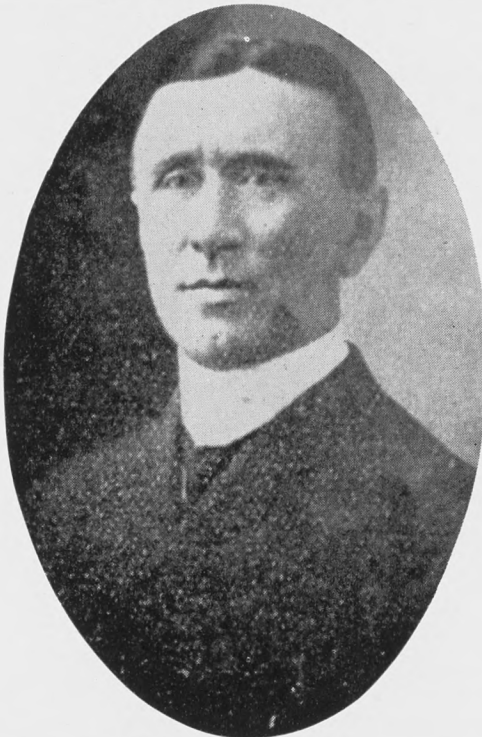
FRIENDLY SERVICE

"For the angler, there are various species of trout and grayling in the surrounding streams and nearby Crow's Nest Lake. There is good hunting for deer and various species of bear.

"There is transportation by rail, bus and truck. Communications include daily mail, telephones and telegraph. Utilities consist of a central water system and three phase 60 cycle electric power. Coal is the fuel used for heating purposes.

"Health services include a 72-bed Municipal Hospital, two doctors, one dentist, one optometrist, one drug store and a St. John's Ambulance station at each mine. There are excellent public schools with 20 rooms and 20 teachers that offer grades one to 12. Five churches serve the spiritual needs of the community, and one bank provides financial facilities. There is a movie theatre, also a progressive weekly newspaper with a circulation of 750 and a school library.

"Three hotels with a total of 93 rooms provide accommodation for the traveller. Several fraternal organizations, service clubs and various associations provide an outlet for public service and spare time activities. There are around 690 houses. An average of ten houses have been built each year during the last five years."



Alex Cameron

The name Alex Cameron is closely associated with the early development of Coleman. Beside being a business man he was Chairman of the School Board, Head of the Village Council, a treasurer of Coleman Board of Trade. Mr. Cameron was head of a syndicate that secured a charter for electricity connecting the lake with the Pass towns and the Prairies.

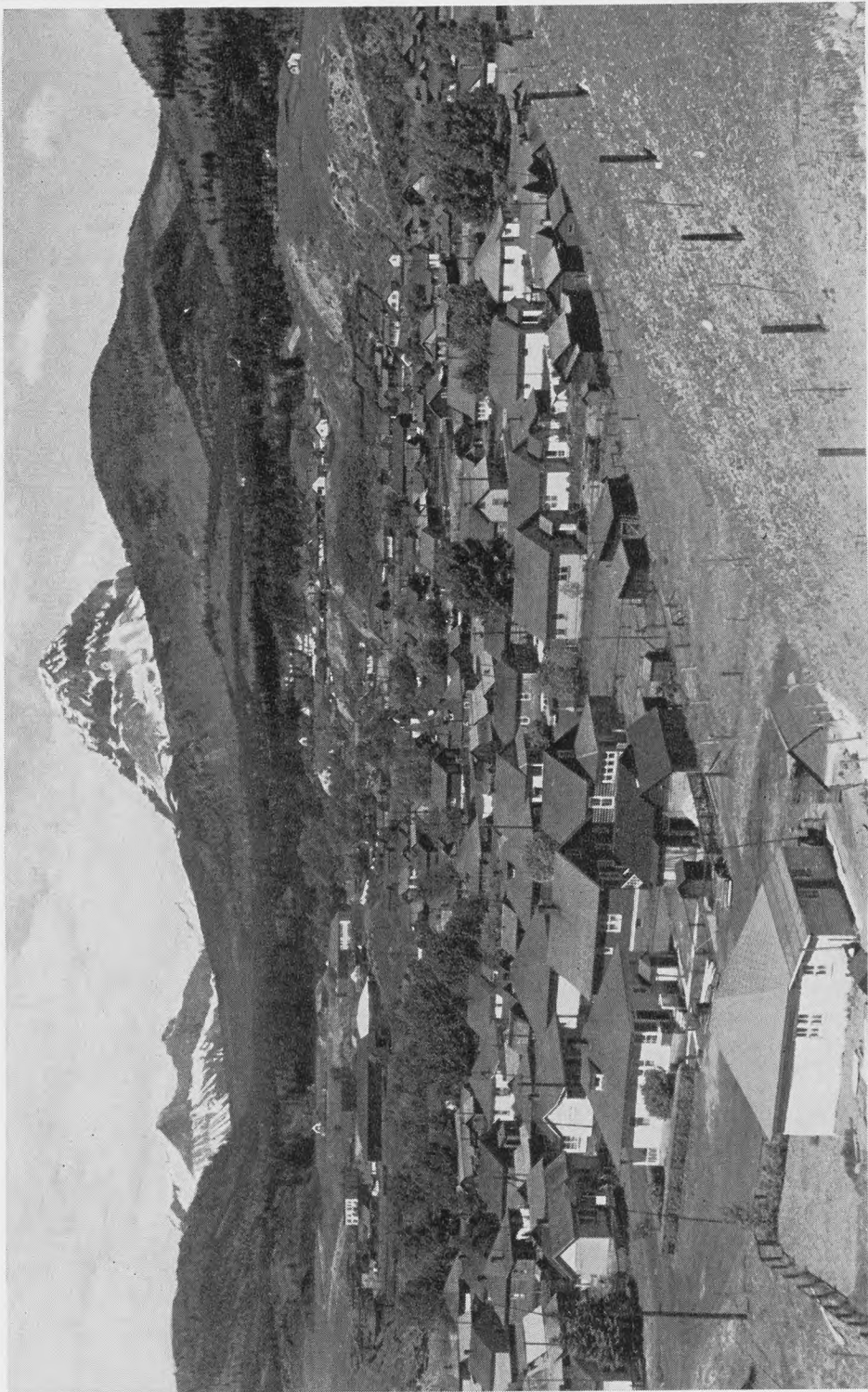
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ALBERTA



Alberta Govt. Photo

GENERAL VIEW OF EAST COLEMAN

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History of East Coleman

(As Written by Steve Mraz)



At the turn of the nineteenth century, East Coleman was a mass of virgin timber and willow brush, inhabited only in the hills to the south of us by four ranching pioneers, namely: Frank Gainey, Paul Offner, Mathew Mitchell and Bill H. Jenkins.

The Jenkins ranch was situated one mile south of the Canadian Pacific Railway, with the Gainey ranch bordering it to the east, while the Offner and Mitchell ranches were situated two miles farther south and one mile north of York Creek.



BURKE RANCH, 1912

The Mitchell ranch later became known as the Burke ranch, as after the accidental death of Douglas Mitchell in the International Mine, Mrs. Mitchell married Harry Burke in 1905.

The photo above was taken on the Burke ranch in 1912. In the front, the little girl on the left is now Mrs. L. C. Grant (nee Dorothy Mitchell), next to her is Agnes Ferguson, daughter of Jock Ferguson, who at that time purchased the Offner ranch, and to the left in the doorway, is the late Harry Burke who died in 1941 at the age of 83.

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BUILDING SUPPLIES**

COLEMAN

At that time the ranchers made their way to and from their respective ranches via the International Mine bridge and over the hill reserved as a mine rock dump today.

The Gainey, Offner and Burke ranches combined today, comprise the greater part of the present Joe Michalsky ranch. Bill Jenkins still resides on the ranch of his pioneer father.

July 1, 1906, the section of Coleman, commonly known as East Coleman, received its first residents.

Albert Sapeta, owner of the Coleman Bowling Alleys, along with two other hardy pioneers, the late Paul Churla and the late Tom Rypien, hacked the first trail through tall timber and thick underbrush from the C.P.R. tracks to his present site of residence. After clearing a plot of land, the pioneers built a shack from the log clearings, which still stands as a souvenir in the Sapeta yard, as shown in photo.

Batching in this shack, the pioneers immediately set out to build homes of their own, and by this time were followed into the jungle by another pioneer, John Lendecki.

The Rypien home was built on what is now the Mike Olesychuk property. The Lendecki home, on the present Supwot property, while Paul Churla built directly in front of what is today the Ukrainian Hall, only to find out years later, after the land had been parcelled and surveyed, that he had built on the front street, thus Mr. Churla, with the help of friends, moved the building to the present site of the Churla residence.



With homes built and Mrs. Lendecki already residing here, Mrs. Churla and Mrs. Sapeta left their native Poland and joined their husbands in 1909.

Mrs. John Korman, nee Annie Lendecki, presently residing in British Columbia, and Edward Churla, are credited here with being the first girl and boy born in East Coleman.

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COLEMAN HARDWARE

Mr. Sapeta, being an ardent big game hunter, reveals a hunters' paradise at that time, of deer, elk and bear coming to the river to drink, also of shooting rabbits in the back-yard; but what tickles Albert most, is that they paid no taxes. Working in the International mine at that time, Mr. Sapeta states that 75 rooms had already been driven.

The Crow's Nest River at that time, and for many years to come, followed its present course as far as the bridge today, then turned directly north in front of the John McQuarrie residence to the corner of the present Polish Hall fence, then turned east between the Supwot and Kuchty homes down to the Badzioch residence, turning sharply here and going straight north to First Street and then turning east behind the Rypien home into what is now the Michalsky ranch, from this point on the old river bed can still be traced.

The Nez Perce Creek also took a different course at that time; instead of emptying into the Crow's Nest River at the bridge, it turned off behind what is today Holyk's East End Grocery, down the alley to the north of the Ukrainian Hall, then straight east to meet the river on Second Avenue.

In 1912, another independent pioneer of Scottish descent, Mr. James Chalmers, followed the trail into Alberta's little community, waded the river to the other side, and bought the land comprising First and Second Avenue on the south side of the river.

Clearing the land, Mr. Chalmers built the first home here, on the present site of the Alex Chalmers residence.

Finding it inconvenient to use the International Mine bridge, Mr. Chalmers, with his son Alex Chalmers and contractor the late A. E. Knowles, built the first bridge in this area over the Crow's Nest River on the present bridge site.

Mr. Otto Sironen was the next settler in this section, building the home at present occupied by Mr. Steve Bettinger, and being noted for the slough to the east of it as East Coleman's Madison Square Gardan at that time and for many years to come, where Jimmy Evans, Babs Johnson and Mickey Brennen, a few of Coleman's hockey headliners, held their first practices.

The remainder of the land in East Coleman at that time was owned and gradually being parcelled off by the late Alex Morrison.

Mr. Joe Liska, another pioneer, purchased the home of Jack Nash, at present owned by George Zinook, and with Andrew Hladek, bought and cleared the land comprising our Third and Fourth Avenues, using this as a hay field for many years.

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By 1921 East Coleman boasted approximately 30 homes, one grocery store operated by the late Mike Ferby and situated south of the present Ferby home, a photo studio operated by Thomas Gushal, situated to the east of Holyk's East End Grocery, and a Polish Hall a little to the south of the present hall.

In 1922 John Lilya, a settler in East Coleman since 1914, with Mr. J. Headburg and Mr. W. North from Blairmore, along with a few other Finnish residents, built the Finn Hall, later being renovated into the present day Yurasek home by the late John Yurasek.

Disaster struck our little community May 31, 1923, when the Crow's Nest River, used at that time for transporting logs from Sentinel to the McClaren's Saw Mill, overflowed its banks, leaving East Coleman under three feet of water and washing away the home of Alex Chalmers, situated at that time on the site of the McQuarrie residence today.

The photo below was taken at that time from the hill to the east of the skating rink, showing the river and the Nez Perce Creek overflowing their banks.



RAILWAY

The Canadian Pacific Railway was built through Coleman in 1898. In 1905, we had our first station (a box car). Our first station agent was T. B. Smith. In 1907, the Flier stopped at Coleman for mail and passengers. Till then mail and passengers had to go to Blairmore to make connections.

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MODERN ELECTRIC

COLEMAN - ALBERTA



The above photo taken in front of the Headburg home at that time, and the present day home of Mr. Pete Meroniuk, shows the floor and a few of McClaren's logs, which at that time were scattered to all parts of East Coleman.



This photo shows the Nez Perce going through the yards of the homes below the present Len Smith residence on Coleman's Main Street.

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EXCEL BUILDERS

COLEMAN - ALBERTA

Immediately following the flood, the courses of the Crow's Nest River and Nez Perce Creek were changed to their present, much straighter courses, in order to avoid a similar occurrence.

In 1925, East Coleman's wooden bridge was replaced by the present steel bridge and in 1927 the present Ukrainian Hall was built.

To the youngsters of today—you are far more fortunate than we were as far as sports are concerned, hockey especially. Thanks to better conditions and the Coleman Sports Association.

In the late twenties our skating rinks were Sironen's slough and the Rypien pond. It wasn't uncommon in those days to see one tearing down



East Coleman's Madison Square Garden

the ice with one skate longer than the other, as most of us screwed any old skate on to an old work boot. A good bent willow, of which we had an unlimited supply, served the purpose of hockey sticks. For shin pads we used the good old Maclean's magazine, and our goalie was always well padded with plenty of Eaton's catalogues—but don't get us wrong boys, the game was every bit as good as it is today.

We did have one over on you youngsters in those days though. Today, if you want to buy an ice cream cone, you have to go to town for it; we had a gentleman by the name

of Frank Calabro, who came down on a horse and built-in wagon all the way from West Coleman (Slav Town), ringing a little hand bell up and down our streets and shouting "Ice Cream." Though often we did not hear the last school bell, this little bell was heard to the four corners of East Coleman and children were seen running out from every alley and doorway to bargain with the gentleman; five cents a cone—two potato bags with no holes or two big beer bottles and definitely no vinegar bottles even if they did resemble beer bottles.

In 1935 East Coleman elected its first ratepayers committee: Frank Barringham, Bert Garret, E. Churla, K. Bator, John Lilya and Mike Klish. As a result East Coleman received its first electric power in 1936.

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**BIRDSEYE VIEW OF
EAST COLEMAN, 1953**

East Coleman at present has a similar committee and in future hopes to have our homes and streets numbered, fire equipment and an up-to-date fire fighting team, which at present is urgently needed.



REMINISCING WITH WALTER NELSON

Coming to Coleman in 1904, Mr. Nelson recalls when room and board at the hotels was \$30 a month and at private homes was \$22 to \$26 a month. Minepants cost 75c. Leckie high top boots, \$3.50 to \$5.00 a pair. Wool socks 35c a pair. A 4-gallon keg of beer was to be had for \$2.00 and the best Scotch whiskey could be bought for 80c a quart. Seagram's cost only 60c a quart. Building bees were very much in vogue and a four-room house costing \$120 a room (plastered too) would go up in jig time. Two room shacks would cost less than \$100, and the boys usually took 2 evenings to put one up. House coal was selling at \$2.50 a ton and houses were assessed \$1.00 a month for water.

Working conditions in the International Mine where Mr. Nelson worked were very good. Miners were all working on Company work for \$3.00 an 8-hour day, six day week. Outside men received in the neighborhood of \$2.25 per day. There was no compensation and no time and a half in the very early days. Miners received their pay on the 15th of every month for

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CALGARY

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COLEMAN - ALBERTA

the previous month. There were no man trips as there were no slopes as we have today. However, Walter remembers miners walking to York Creek on their own time.

Contract mining started in 1905 after the union was recognized. The following was established after a two-month strike in 1905:

1. One dollar a month union check-off.
2. Contract miners were paid 50c a ton in No. 4 seam and 55c a ton for No. 2 seam.

\$1 a yard at crosscuts up to 25 feet.

Laying chutes 30c a yard.

Pillar coal 50c a ton.

Props 5c per lineal foot.

Room timber \$1 per set.

Lagging \$1 a yard.

Since 1905 there have been numerous changes, outstanding points such as compensation in 1918, 5-day week, burnt-out and retirement pension, time and a half for overtime, holiday pay, and many others brought about through the union efforts and company's outlook on the well-being of their employees.

Mr. Nelson remembers when there was anything doing in town everybody showed up. The Italian Hall was the community hall until 1908 when the Coleman Miners Hall was built. Most men in those early days smoked cigars, cigarette smoking was looked down upon.

Coming to the end of the interview the subject changed to weather, and Mr. Nelson remarked that this winter of 1952-53 was the mildest that he has seen in Coleman since 1904. Truly Mr. Nelson is an old timer and has seen Coleman grow from its infancy to its 50th birthday.

Did You Know That . . .

First services ever held in Coleman were held in a store under construction by Mr. Trelle, with planks set on nail kegs for pews.

The first Board of Trade was organized March 9, 1926 with A. Morrison as president, W. Bell as vice-president, W. S. Purvis as secretary.

The first talkies were at the Palace Theatre owned by Mr. Dow, on October 25, 1929.

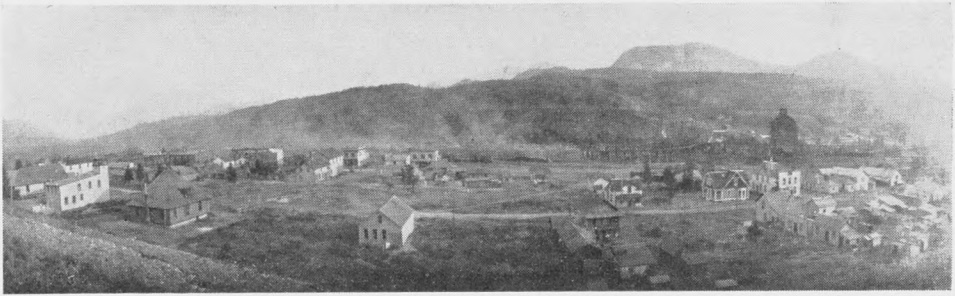
A new bank opened October 6, 1927, under the management of Mr. W. Rippon.

The first photo studio in Coleman was erected in 1907 on what is now the J. Nelson property.

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COLEMAN'S EARLY DAYS

THE JACK RUSHTON STORY

Did you say Jack Rushton? Why that name was first heard in Coleman in 1911. Jack came to Coleman after putting in time in Michel from 1903. He remembers very vividly the Michel fire of 1908. That was the year they evacuated all the women from Michel to Coleman in box cars to escape from the ravaging fire.

On arrival in Coleman Jack worked for the P. Burns Co. Incidentally, that building was damaged by fire and rebuilt by its present owner, Mr. Henry Zak, Sr. Jack reminisces about top wages of \$2.50 a day in 1911. Mentioning York Creek, Jack says "Why, that is where I used to deliver grub to the boarding house operated by Harry De Coster. I used to deliver to McLaren's mills, another going concern at that time, operating where the municipal hospital is today. Maybe some of the old-timers remember that the Grand Union wasn't always a brick building like it is today, but a two-storey wooden structure run by George Claes and the pool room was run by Sam Moores. And I wonder how many remember the old Opera House run as a theatre. Boy, I sure remember waiting in the store till 1 a.m. Sunday morning for people to pick up their meat after the show. What comparison in closing hours of today.

Jack was secretary of the St. John's Ambulance for 27 years and was presented with a King George V Medal in 1935 in recognition of his services.

Jack has also been a faithful Elk for many years and now is a life member besides holding down the job of secretary. Just for the record, Jack dug up the old file of 1925 when the Elk organization was first formed and recalls officers such as A. Morrison, C. W. McKinnon, J. F. Lote, George Pattinson, F. H. Graham, W. Rippon, C. S. Oumette, R. G. Powell, J. Hatfield, H. C. McBurney, R. Wilson, McKeen Hunter, R. W. Jones, P. Kierman. Yes, Jack has a library of memories of Coleman stored away. Coleman is proud of having a fine citizen such as Jack Rushton.

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**CROW'S NEST PASS
FUNERAL HOME**
BLAIRMORE

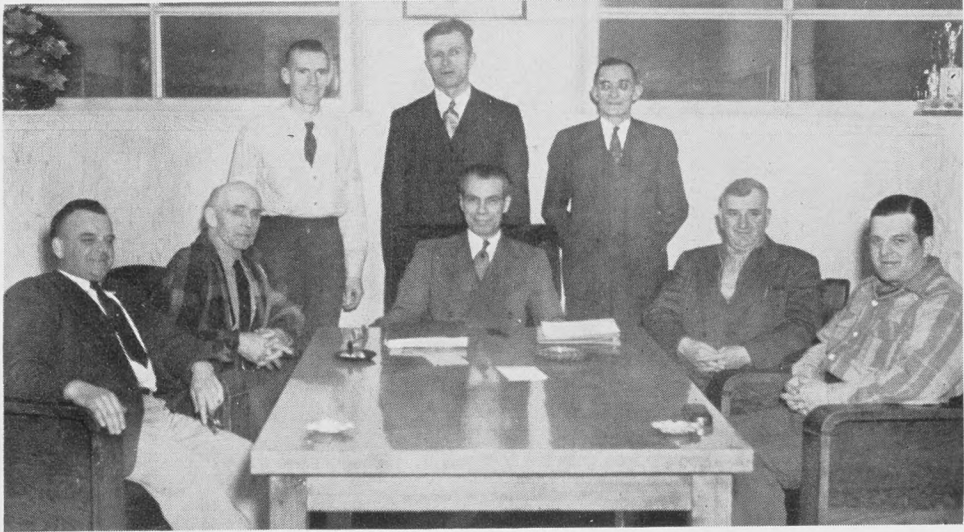
INTERNATIONAL FRUIT
FERNIE, B.C.

A Few Facts and Figures

By EDMUND ABOUSAFFY



TOWN COUNCIL



Sitting, left to right: A. Toppino, W. Dibble, Mayor Frank Abousaffy, J. Ramsay, E. Wood.

Standing, left to right: T. Collister, Joe Wavrecan, B. Bond.

The first record of coal being found in substantial quantity in the Crow's Nest Pass was by Nicholas Sheran, who while travelling to Montana took a load of "black diamonds," as he called it, back and sold it. However, it was not until a survey by Mr. Beach, whose report was published in the geological survey in 1902, that increased interest in the district was shown.

Early in 1903 the International Coal and Coke Company of Spokane acquired the Denison coal property at Coleman and started to develop them. The company erected their colliery the same year and placed 100 beehive ovens in operation. The townsite was resurveyed and lots were placed on the market on October 22nd, 1903.

In 1904, Mr. A. C. Flumerfelt, president of the International Coal and Coke Company, named the townsite "Coleman" after his youngest daughter.

The town opened up almost overnight, for by Christmas of 1903 the Coleman Hotel was in operation and business houses followed quickly, providing every necessity for civilized life.

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COLEMAN

In 1904 the hamlet was elevated to a village, electing as their first council: Mr. A. Cameron, Mr. F. G. Graham and Mr. D. F. Hughes.

School classes were first held the same year in the Anglican Mission Hall and in the fall of 1905 Coleman built its first two room school. The Citizens' Committee installed a temporary water system during the summer of 1905, using surface pipes to conduct water from Nez Perce Creek, which flows through Coleman; but before winter set in, installed a permanent water system. Electric lights were installed the same year, getting their power from the available facilities of the International Coal and Coke Co., and the telephone system was established shortly after.

By 1907 the town had grown to a population of about 1,300 and received regular mail service by the Canadian Pacific Railway, which built a permanent station the same year.

By this time Coleman had started to take on its present outline of streets and avenues. Under the guidance of the council many improvements were made and the streets were graded and gravelled and sidewalks were built. The Miners' Hospital was built in 1908 giving the people all modern medical facilities. The North-West Mounted Police Barracks were built the same year providing protection for the town and enforcing law and order.

Slav Town (West Coleman) was incorporated into Coleman in 1910 and a road was built around the bluff to join the two districts. Sidewalks and roads were improved and water was supplied to the houses from the existing Coleman water system.



MAIN STREET AT NIGHT

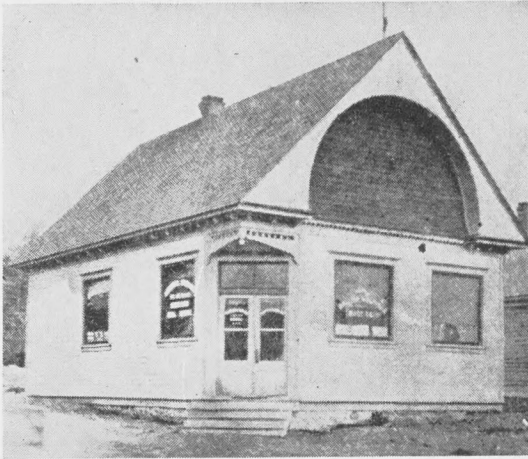
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SALU'S GENERAL STORE Beny Chevrolet-Olds Ltd.

COLEMAN

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Coleman's second mine, the McGillivray Creek Coal Company, started operations in 1909 and increased steadily until today it employs around 350 men.



**FIRST BANK, KNOWN AS
EASTERN TOWNSHIP BANK**

The successful development and rapid progress of Coleman is not surprising when you consider that it is ideally situated in the heart of the largest coal area in Canada. In the mountainous area surrounding the town the rock formations have faulted and folded exposing the Kootenay and Blairmore formations of Lower Cretaceous Age. Both these formations form a series of sandstone and shale beds, however the Kootenay in this area is a coal bearing horizon. Another tributary to Coleman's progress and popularity is the fact that it is located in the Crow's Nest Pass which cuts through the Canadian Rockies providing passage for rail and road transportation to the Pacific. It lies near the base of one of Canada's most magnificent mountains—"The Crow's Nest"—which gives the Pass its name. The Crow's Nest, surrounded by the grandeur of the Rockies throughout the Pass, contributes to the ever-increasing tourist traffic.

From the first Overseers, Mr. Trip and Mr. Galer, and through Coleman's Mayors, after its incorporation as a town on March 12th, 1912—Mr. A. Cameron, Mr. Ouimette, Mr. Morrison, Mr. D'Appolonia, Mr. Moore, Mr. Burns, Mr. G. Pattinson, Mr. F. Antrobus and Mr. F. Aboussafy—it has grown from a few hundred people living in rough log cabins to a prosperous, well established industrial centre, having a trading population of over 4,500 people. This population gets its livelihood mainly from the two underground mines which amalgamated into the Coleman Collieries Limited in November of 1951, from two strip mines, and a prosperous business section.

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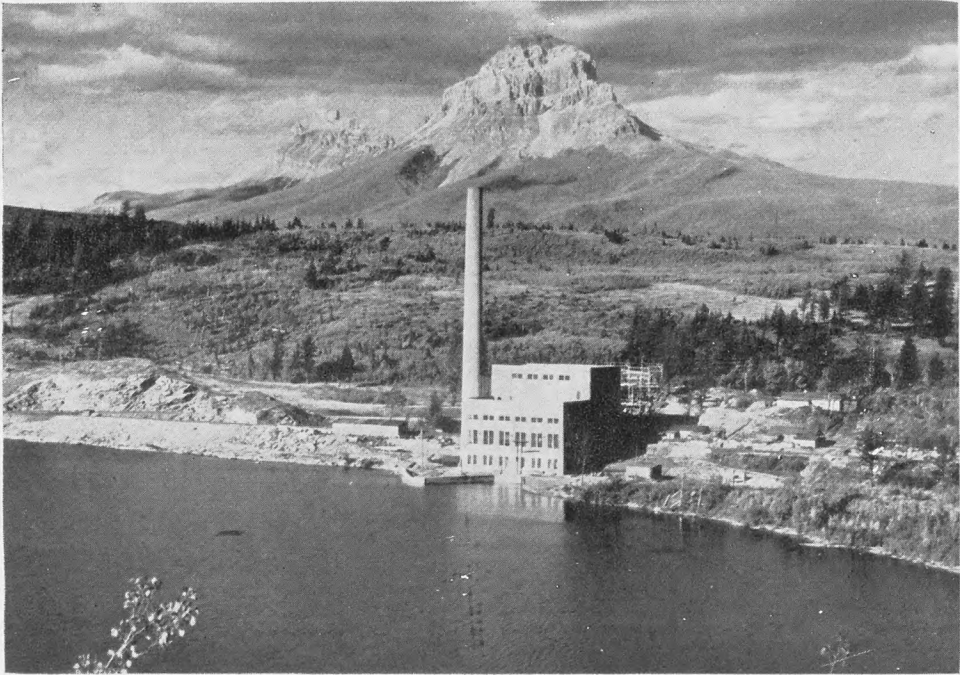
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LETHBRIDGE

ALBERTA

**COLEMAN AUTO
REPAIR SHOP**

EAST KOOTENAY POWER COMPANY, LIMITED



POWER PLANT AT SENTINEL

As the Town of Coleman marks its 50th Anniversary, it becomes an occasion of celebration both for the event itself and for the expansion and development achieved by the town and the industries established in the Coleman area.

It is doubtful if any one industry has been more closely associated with the growth of Coleman than that which supplies electrical service. So universal has become the use of electricity that directly or indirectly it affects the welfare of every individual in the community.

The records of the East Kootenay Power Company, Limited, show that on June 2nd, 1922, at 11:25 a.m., a switch was closed to supply electricity to Coleman and the surrounding area from the company's hydro-electric plant at Bull River, B.C. This date marks the inauguration of a service which has participated in and kept pace with the increased demand of the town and its industries on a 24-hour basis for 31 years.

In March, 1924, the company's initial generating capacity of 5,000 K.W. was increased by the addition of a 12,000 K.W. hydro plant at Elko, B.C. But the coal and metal mining industry was growing and an auxiliary source of power was necessary in addition to the hydro power.

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FREEMAN'S DRY GOODS
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COLEMAN
MEAT MARKET

Construction of a steam generating station on Crow's Nest Lake at a point designated as Sentinel, was started in 1926. The original installation was one generator of 5,000 K.W. capacity. Steam was supplied from two boilers fired by pulverized coal. Two years later a second generating unit of similar capacity and a third boiler were added.

The generation of electric power had become a major addition to Coleman's list of industries.

In 1946 the entire boiler plant was torn out and replaced with two pressure vessels of modern design and modern bowl mills for coal pulverization.

Accommodations for staff consist of seven modern houses and a large staff house.

The initial and subsequent installations involving an expenditure of nearly two million dollars definitely contributed to Coleman's economy. More important in this respect has been the payroll of an operating crew averaging better than twenty employees whose nearest shopping centre is Coleman. The present monthly payroll is \$5,600.00.

Coal purchases from the local mines for a five year period from 1948 have totalled 94,000 tons with a value well over a half million dollars. Daily Coal deliveries of 250 tons during the winter are a regular occurrence.

During the month of July, 1922, the East Kootenay Power Company, Limited supplied 130,000 kilowatt hours to the mine substation from which the town is supplied. In January of this year the consumption exceeded one million kilowatt hours. This is but another yardstick by which thirty years of development can be measured.

ORIGIN OF THE "CROW'S NEST" AND THE "OLD MAN"

During the early tribal wars among the Indians, one of the chief's had his headquarters in the vicinity of the Crow's Nest Mountain. His fetish or medicine was a crow emblazoned on his teepee, his sleeping place or nest. From this it appears to be reasonably certain the name Crow's Nest sprung.

The Indian lore for the origin of the Old Man has it that among the superstitions of the Indians was one that an old man of prodigious powers lived on the banks of the stream at a point below the border of the foothills, where the rock formation extends across the river, a spot well known to all who have travelled up and down to and from the prairie. When the elements raged and the thunder rolled the Indians would say: "The old man is rolling stones across the river." It was their belief that the old man disported himself when in anger, in rolling the rocks across the stream. There is little, in fact it may be said there is no doubt, that the name Old Man sprung from this bit of mythology.

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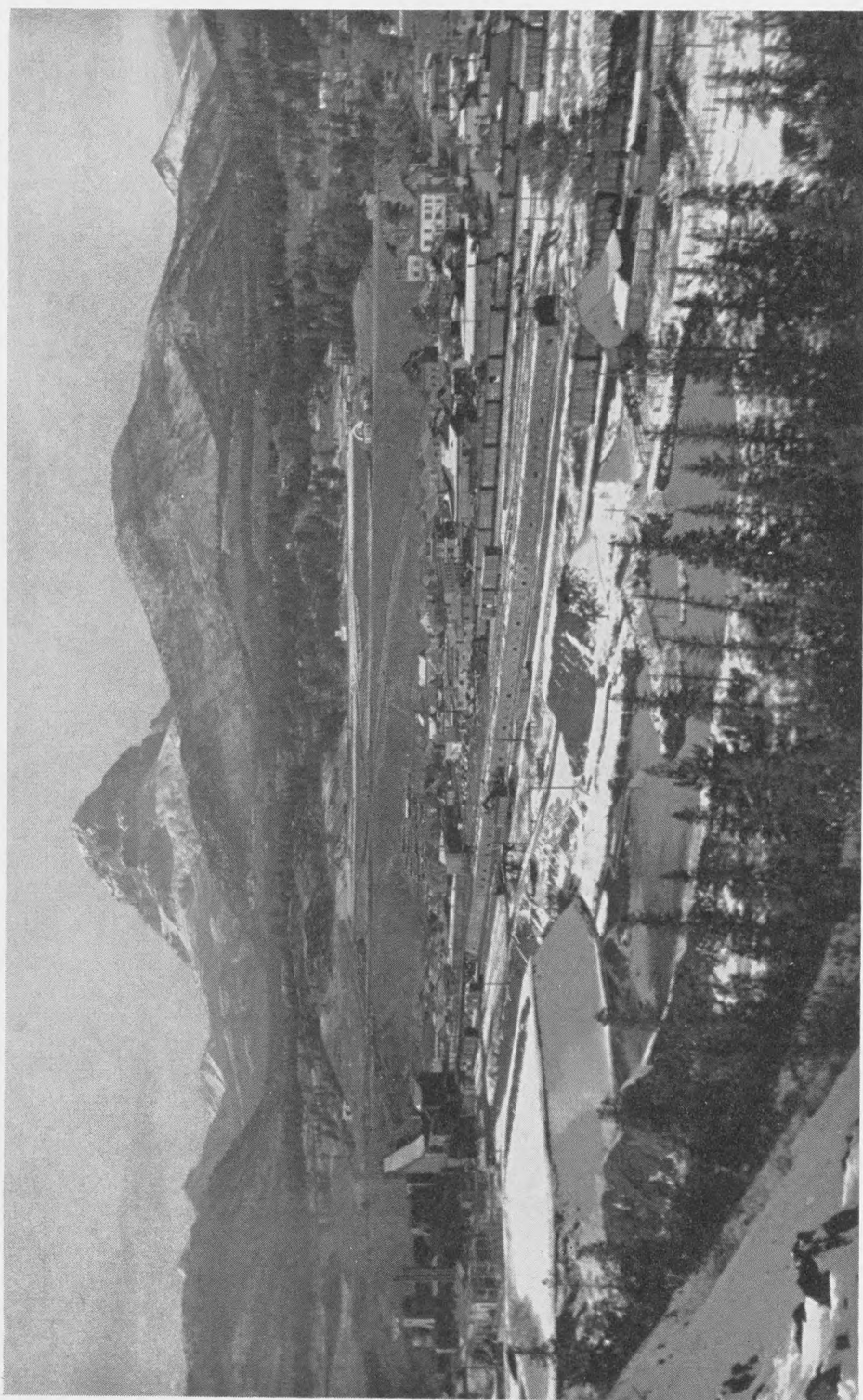
GLACIER CABINS

ON CROW'S NEST LAKE

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SLIM'S TIRE SHOP

COLEMAN



GENERAL VIEW OF COLEMAN & INTERNATIONAL SURFACE PLANT

FIFTY YEARS OF PROGRESS IS RECORD OF COLEMAN'S COLLIERIES

Few people today realize the important role played by the coal companies of Coleman in the development of the West. During the past fifty years the two Coleman mines have produced over 25,000,000 tons of coal and approximately 1,750,000 tons of metallurgical coke. They have paid to their employees over \$75,000,000.00 in salaries and wages, while approximately \$7,750,000.00 went to the shareholders in dividends. Governments, too, have shared in the harvest that the mines have produced; several million dollars have been paid in royalties, rentals, income taxes, etc. The mines have



LOADING MACHINE PICKING UP ROCK AND LOADING INTO MINE CARS

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also provided an important market for manufactured products and have consumed over \$20,000,000.00 in supplies, not including several millions expended for capital items such as mine machinery and equipment. More important, the mines have provided a means of livelihood for many thousands of people who have come to this area from Eastern Canada, Great Britain and most of the countries of Europe. Not only have these people joined together in wresting from the depths of the earth its vast treasure of riches, but they have provided Canada with a solid core of responsible and respected citizens who are daily adding to the greatness and culture of our nation.



DRILLING WITH AIR LEG DRILLS IN ROCK TUNNEL

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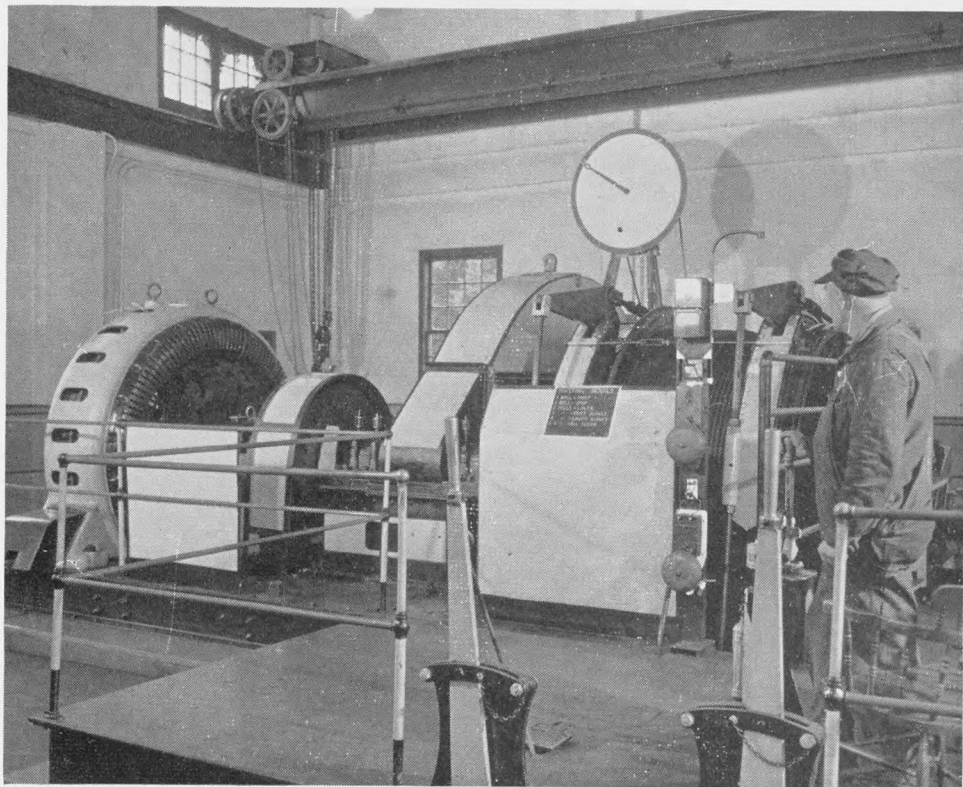
**THE HUGHES OVENS
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International Coal and Coke Company Limited

The early years of the 20th century were remarkable for the rapid development in mineral exploration which took place in the Northwestern States and Southern British Columbia. Smelters were built to reduce the ores to metal and these smelters required coke which had to be imported at high cost from the Eastern States.

In the spring of 1902, a group of men gathered in the city of Spokane, Washington, U.S., to discuss the problem of coke supply. It was known that the coal found in the Crow's Nest Pass was rich in coking qualities and would provide coke of good grade. As a result of their deliberation the International Coal and Coke Co. Limited was formed to acquire the Denison Coal Properties at Coleman, Alberta. Mr. A. C. Flumerfelt, a financier of Victoria, B.C., headed the new company and remained as its president (except for the years 1913 and 1914) until his death in 1930.



Main Hoist Room. Electric Hoisting Machine at Deepest Mine in Western Canada

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Early in 1903 the company commenced the development of its mining properties, the construction of the first 100 "beehive" coke ovens and its surface plant. In the same year the townsite was surveyed and lots were placed on the market on October 22nd, 1903. During the year the officials and workmen practically camped at the townsite until accommodations could be provided.

Mr. E. E. Reynolds arrived from Pennsylvania early in 1904 to become the first mine superintendent. In that year the town rapidly developed; at its close the population was about 500 and within a year the average daily output from the mine had risen to 2,200 tons.



MINE DIESEL IN ROCK TUNNEL

The tremendous expansion of these first eighteen months furnish an excellent example of what may be accomplished when competent men apply themselves to a given task. In a little over a year prospecting was begun to prove the value of the seams, development plans prepared, entries and air courses driven, and a large fan installed. A townsite was plotted and houses constructed. Plans for the surface plant were prepared, machinery built or

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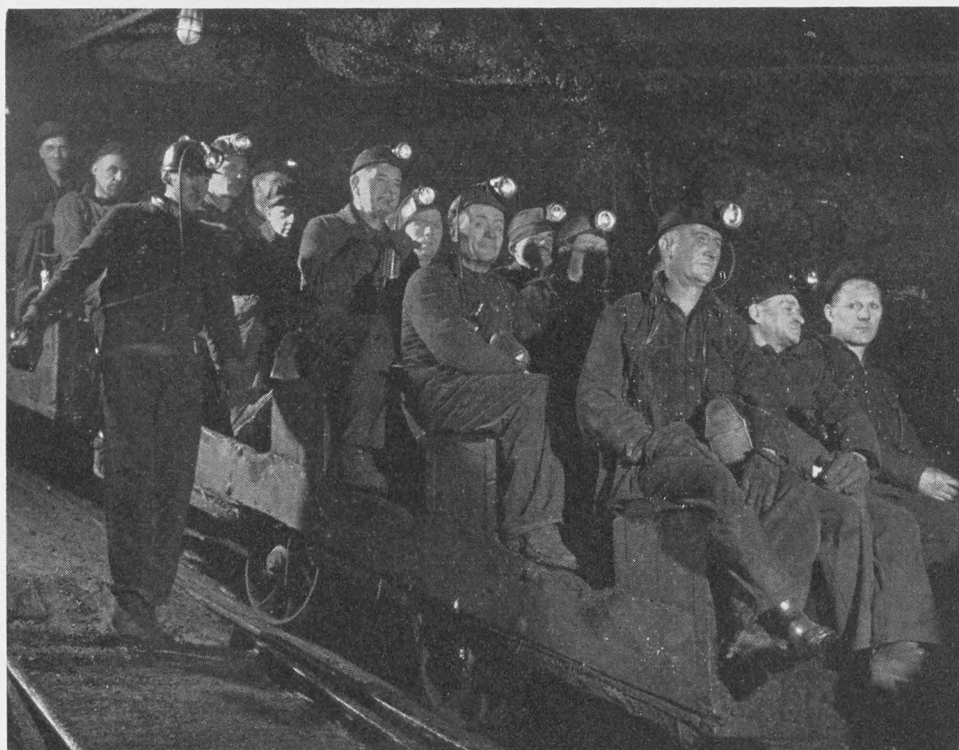
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secured from the east, necessary buildings were erected and machinery installed. During the same time a battery of 100 coke ovens had been built and placed in operation. All this was accomplished on an initial investment of \$300,000.00. It is quite evident that so much could not have been accomplished had there been any waste of time, energy or money. The result may therefore be said to stand as a monument to the executive capacity and good judgment of the men responsible for the achievement, together with the diligent application to duty of the capable men who labored at the task.



LOWERING MEN ON MAN TRIP

In the following year the coking plant was expanded to 216 ovens with a capacity of 8,000 tons of coke per month. The operating plant consisted of two 125 horse power and eight 150 horse power boilers, two 400 horse power engines connected direct with 250 K.W. generators; two air compressors compressing to 1,000 lbs., which supplied power for haulage; a fan driven by a 140 horse power electric motor, a tippie with a bin capacity of 3,000 tons, screens and two 5'x40' picking tables, also two smaller belts below for slack conveyors run by electric motors; an electric lorry which carried slack from the tippie to the coke ovens; and Ottumwa box car loader, railway

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scales, a 100 horse power tippie hoist; eight compressed air locomotives including two compound air locos, which did all the haulage both inside and outside the mine. A machine shop, blacksmith shop and woodworking shop were completed.

The coal came from the mine in trains of upwards of sixty cars, hauled by one of the large compressed air locomotives. After the cars were weighed they were run onto the cage of the tippie hoist and hoisted to the top of the tippie where the self-dumping cage dumped the coal over the screens. Passing over the screens the slack was taken out, the remainder going onto picking tables hence into bins ready for shipment. The slack was conveyed to bins and then, by lorry, to the coke ovens.

In the year 1910 the mine had on its payroll 550 men, with an average payroll of \$50,000.00 per month. In that year the mine worked 280 days and produced over 475,000 tons of coal—a record which was to stand until the year 1949 when over 600,000 tons were produced in 233 working days.

During the first five years of the company's existence Mr. H. N. Gahler acted as Vice-President and General Manager, and was largely responsible for the early development of the company. He was succeeded as General Manager by Mr. O. E. S. Whiteside who remained in control of the operations of the company for the next twenty-six years, retiring in 1935. In this period the company experienced varying fortunes which were largely affected by world conditions. The year 1915 proved most difficult as slightly over 100,000 tons of coal were sold and for a time the directors felt the mine would have to be closed. Then, following the Armistice in 1918 the market for coke collapsed and the ovens were closed. They did not re-open again until 1932, when a contract was negotiated with the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co. of Canada Ltd.

In 1924 the mines were closed for almost seven months as a result of a general strike of the miners, with consequent distressing results to the men and company alike.

In 1925 it became evident that the old tippie structure had become obsolete and would have to be replaced by a new structure capable of providing a product more acceptable to the demands of the market. Consequently a new steel tippie and dry cleaning plant were constructed in 1926 which were a source of pride to the community. They, too, became obsolete and were replaced about ten years later by the present concrete wet washery plant with its modern jigs for washing coal and coal dryers which dry the coal to a low moisture content.

The month of October, 1934, is remembered for the serious underground fire which occurred in the mine. While the fire was quickly brought under control, it was necessary to flood a large section of the mine, and thus delay

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the extraction of the coal for many years from the area affected. It is interesting to note that in the year 1948 the area was re-opened, after dewatering had been completed, and three locomotives and about 50 mine cars were found intact after their long submersion. The locos and cars were overhauled and are now in service again.



MINERS PICKING UP ELECTRIC SAFETY LAMPS AT LAMP HOUSE

In the year 1935 the late George Kellock became Vice-President and General Manager of the company and the International and McGillivray mines thus came under joint management. This arrangement resulted in further economies, and extensive changes in the development of the mine were begun.

In the year 1936 marketing conditions were stabilized and steady work prevailed until comparatively recent months, when the market for coal again softened as the result of increasing use of oil and diesel units in railway locomotives.

The period of the Second Great War found the mine in splendid condition to take care of the heavy demands that were to be placed upon it. Despite a severe manpower shortage the mine was able to expand its output

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to meet the increasing need for coal. Many of the younger employees answered the nation's call and enlisted in the armed forces. With the aid of high school students, farmers and older men, production was maintained at a high level for a time. However, the continued depletion of the younger men from the mine to the Forces eventually resulted in the process being reversed, and a number of qualified miners were returned from the services to resume their posts underground.

In 1947, to offset the increasing cost of mining coal by underground methods the company turned to strip mining. In the next five years a substantial tonnage was removed by surface operations from the York Creek district above the underground operations which had been developed prior to 1914.

An interesting feature of the mine's development is its rock tunnel, which extends in a southerly direction for well over two miles from the mine portal. This provides a safe haulage route for coal coming from the York Creek district. The first 100 h.p. diesel locomotive to be used in underground coal mines in Canada was placed in service in this rock tunnel in 1949. This locomotive replaced two large compressed air locos, one of which had been in use for 45 years. It speeded up the transfer of men, and materials, and marked a major step forward in underground coal mining in this district.

The year 1951 wound up the operating existence of the International Company. In that year its physical assets, such as lands, plant, equipment and underground development, was sold to Coleman Collieries Limited, a new firm, which acquired similar assets from the McGillivray Creek Coal and Coke Co. Ltd., and the neighboring Hillcrest-Mohawk Collieries Ltd.

Mr. J. J. McIntyre, who had guided the operations of the Company during the previous twelve years retired as Managing Director. Mr. James Black, Chairman of the Board and a Director for over 30 years, also wound up his lengthy service. However, continuity of direction was not lost, as Mr. H. A. Howard, who had served on the Board of Directors of International for twenty-five years—the last five as President—was elected to head the new corporation.

The directors of the new firm appointed Mr. F. J. Harquail, who had been instrumental in organizing the Hillcrest-Mohawk Collieries as Managing Director. Mr. Harry Wilton-Clark, after distinguished service in other fields returned to Coleman to direct the mining operations of the new company as General Manager. He is ably assisted by Mr. Henry Miller as General Superintendent in charge of all mining operations.

The merger produced one of the largest coal mining concerns in Canada and placed the Coleman mines in a better position to meet the rapidly changing conditions of the industry.

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McGillivray Creek Coal & Coke Co. Ltd.

The establishment of the McGillivray Company in 1909 provided a tremendous boost to the community. This company acquired the coal seams to the north of International's and like its neighbor was not long in getting into production. In succeeding years it has produced large tonnages of high grade coal and has richly rewarded those who made the original investment. Much of the original capital was obtained from people living in the State of Minnesota, many of whom have retained their interest in the company to the present day.

The late Lorne A. Campbell served as first President of the company and acted in that capacity during most of the years until his death in 1947. Under the joint management arrangement with the International Company he became president of both firms, in 1936, and he, together with his associate, the late George Kellock, placed the Coleman Mining Companies on a solid foundation. Upon the death of Mr. Campbell, Mr. H. A. Howard assumed the presidency of both companies. Mr. A. F. Short, who had many years of service with the McGillivray Company, and later also with International, became Executive Vice-President of the companies following the death of Mr. Kellock in 1940. He ably filled this position until his career was closed while he was still in the prime of life in 1944.



EARLY SURFACE PLANT AT INTERNATIONAL

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COLEMAN

The townsite at Coleman expanded its limits to include West Coleman in 1910 and many lots were soon purchased by the new employees coming to the McGillivray Company. In addition, the Carbondale townsite was developed and further homesites provided for the newcomers.

The company's peak production year was 1924, when over 484,000 tons of coal were produced in 223 working days. In 1929 the mine employed as many as 600 men, which indicates its importance to the community.

The company was always a leader in coal preparation and was perhaps the first to introduce wet washery jigs and related equipment to this area. Its mining properties extend many miles to the north of Coleman and indicate excellent prospects for future development.

In recent years the company's operations have been hampered by geological and physical disturbances underground. Several severe "bumps" have occurred which have claimed the lives of some excellent men. However, both men and officials, while realizing that such occurrences are inherent in the hazards of mining, have continued diligently in the task and are to be commended for their courage and resourcefulness. At the same time they are earnestly seeking to find the cause of these acts of nature so that similar unfortunate occurrences may be avoided in the future.

During the past fifty years the Coleman mines have grown from lusty infants to a maturity that is rare in western coal fields. The men who first filled the ranks are being replaced by their sons and grandsons, and new immigrants from across the seas. The years have presented problems in wars, strikes, depressions, booms and declining markets. Through them all, the workers and management have adjusted themselves to all conditions and have learned to face the future with the same confidence in their own capabilities as have been evidenced in the past.

MONDAY CLOSING

The merchants of Coleman, along with Blairmore, Frank, Bellevue, Hillcrest and Burmis, organized under the Crow's Nest Pass Retail Merchants' Association in November, 1951. On Feb. 11th, 1952, the merchants of Coleman had their closing bylaws amended giving them and their employees a 40-hour five-day week. All stores remain closed on Mondays all day and remain open all day Wednesday. If a holiday falls within the week the store opens on the Monday. In the event of a holiday falling on a Saturday the stores remain open on the Monday following. Employer and employee relationship is at a very high level. At the annual meeting of the Crow's Nest Pass Retail Merchants' Association Dick Harper and William Holyk were returned to fill the offices of president and secretary-treasurer respectively and Wilfred Dutil taking the vice-presidency.

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EXCERPTS FROM REV. J. M. FAWCETT’S MEMOIRS

Michael Phillips and John Collins were the first white men to travel through the Crow’s Nest Pass. On a hunting trip and trapping expedition in the fall of 1873 they went up the Kootenay from Tobacco Plains, ascended the Elk River and Michel Creek, and thence through the Pass to the plains.

The first white woman to travel through the Pass was the wife of Inspector Wood, of the R.N.W.M.P., who came with her husband from Fort Steele to Lethbridge in 1888.

The first prospecting in the district was begun in 1887 by Mr. William Fernie, then of Fort Steele, and Lieut.-Col. Baker, M.L.A. In 1897, the Crow’s Nest Pass Coal Co. Ltd., was organized at Fernie, B.C. and a contract signed with the C.P.R. to build a railway through the Pass from the east. The railway was completed in the fall of 1898, and presently mines were opened all along the Alberta section of the Pass.

Mines were opened at Coleman in 1903. The first owners of mining rights at Coleman were the Denison Collieries. In 1903 the International Coal and Coke Co. Ltd. took over the Denison Collieries properties. The townsite was put on the market on October 22nd, 1903. It is stated that by the fall of 1904 there was a population of over 500.

HISTORY OF ST. PAUL’S UNITED CHURCH

In 1904 the Reverend W. H. Ferrer was the first minister of the Presbyterian Church with services held in the Mission Hall. On Sunday, April 1st, 1906, the first Presbyterian church was dedicated, and in 1907 the first manse was built.



St. Paul’s United Church

Ministers who have served the church to date, in order, are:

Rev. W. H. Ferrer	1904-05
Rev. T. M. Murray	1906-15
Rev. D. E. Cameron	1915-16
Rev. D. K. Allan	1916-26
Rev. A. E. Larke	1926-30
Rev. R. C. Taylor	1932-36
Rev. H. J. Bevan	1936-40
Rev. J. E. Kirk	1940-43
Rev. G. A. Kettlys	1943-45
Rev. R. Magowan	1946-49
Rev. J. M. Fawcett	1949-51
Rev. A. E. Morrison	1951---

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COLEMAN PHARMACY

Church union came on Jan. 12, 1926, and the church was designated as St. Paul's United Church.

At intervals during the years the club rooms were used as classrooms by the Coleman Public School.

Among the church organizations which have been instrumental in the welfare of the church work are: the Session, the Women's Missionary Society, the Women's Association, the Evening Study Group, the Sunday School and various youth groups such as the C.G.I.T. From the first church in 1904 there has been constant growth, development and improvement until the present St. Paul's United Church of the Golden Anniversary year of 1953.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE SALVATION ARMY IN COLEMAN

(By Dorothy MacQuarrie)



Standing, left to right: Lieut. E. Brinkholder, Mrs. Roughead, Mr. Fred Smith, Mrs. M. Ferguson, Mrs. Fred Smith, Lieut. Chapman.

Sitting, left to right: Mr. Bob Holmes, Mrs. W. Antrobus, Lieut. Col. Mundy, Mrs. Glendenning, Mr. Glendenning.

The Salvation Army began in Coleman on April 15th, 1915, with the arrival of Capt. J. Acton (now Lieut.-Col. Acton, retired) and Lieut. Thomas Mundy (now Lieut.-Col. Mundy, Territorial Young People's Secretary, in Toronto). These officers, with their brilliant red caps, presented a strange and amusing sight to the citizens of Coleman. The greatest attraction to the officers was the blazing coke ovens.

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BLAIRMORE

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Few English-speaking people were living in Coleman at this time, making conversation difficult. The only available building that was to be the officers' quarters was a small shack. Furnishings were primitive, some of them being: a wooden barrel cut in half, served as a bath tub, and an old four-poster bed, which collapsed with them, much to their discomfort, on a cold winter night.

The first "Army" meetings were held in the old motion picture theatre; and then later in the bar room of the old Empire Hotel. After being in Coleman for eighteen months, having endured much discomfort during meetings from a leaky roof, noisy tenants in adjoining rooms, etc., the officers considered the possibilities of an Army Hall of their own.

A discarded meat shop from a road near the Frank Slide was given the Army by the late Pat Burns. This was dismantled and brought to Coleman. The lot near the C.P.R. station was donated by the International Coal and Coke Co.

With the kindly co-operation of the town folk the first Salvation Army Hall was built. When the structure was nearly completed, a terrific wind storm all but destroyed it. There were anxious moments for the carpenters, but with the wind subsiding, and hard work resumed, the building was safely put right.

All meetings and Army activities were successfully carried on in this hall until Sept. 10th, 1943, Capt. Marks being the commanding officer. The old hall was then exchanged for the building on Main Street, the Salvation Army Hall of today. The original hall is now known as "Slim's Tire Shop." The official opening meetings were conducted by Col. and Mrs. L. Ursaki of Edmonton (divisional commander) at that time. The late Fred Antrobus, being mayor of Coleman, played an important part in the opening of the new hall.

On more recent visits to Coleman, both Lieut.-Col. Acton and Lieut.-Col. Mundy have found many changes made, especially in convenient transportation facilities, living accommodations for the officers, etc. One thing they both agree has not changed that is to quote them, "The kindness of the people of the Crow's Nest Pass."

Following are the officers who have faithfully served in the Coleman Corps, from 1915 to 1953: Capt. J. Acton, Lieut. T. Mundy, Capt. Capon, Candidate Joyce, Capt. Fox, Lieut. Cox, Lieut. Carterer, Capt. Capon, Lieut. Install, Capt. Hammond, Lieut. Ede, Capt. Clapham, Lieut. Tyndall, Capt. Hammond, Lieut. Stubbard, Capt. Herman, Capt. Milley, Capt. Watt, Capt. Hind, Capt. Donnelly, Lieut. Meakings, Capt. Thirstien, Lieut. Meakings, Capt. Fowler, Lieut. MacMillan, Capt. Slous, Lieut. Carter, Capt. Hotvedt, Lieut. Weir, Lieut. Fitch, Lieut. Pierce, Lieut. Frayne, Capt. Mattison, Capt. Hewett, Capt. G. Fitch, Capt. Watson, Lieut. Wedell, Lieut.

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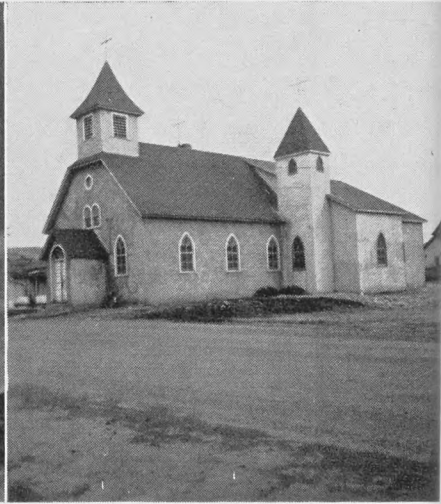
Smith, Lieut. Marks, Capt. Nahirney, Lieut. Hammond, Capt. T. Smith, Lieut. Burkholder, Lieut. Chapman, Lieut. Hopkins, Capt. W. Carey.

April 24th, 1953, marks the 38th anniversary of the Salvation Army in Coleman. As in 1915 the Salvation Army stands as "A Lighthouse of the Gospel," serving with "Hand to man, and heart to God" all who seek their help, both materially and spiritually.

HOLY GHOST CHURCH Coleman, Alberta



1905



1953

At the turn of the century, what is now known as Holy Ghost Parish was nothing more than unorganized missionary territory. Pioneer priests from France, Belgium and other countries of Europe called here and administered to the spiritual needs of the people in the course of their journeys through the prairie provinces.

As Catholics arrived in increasing numbers from different parts of Canada and especially from Europe, it soon became evident that a suitable place of worship was necessary.

The Coleman Catholics of that time had planned to erect a church down town, but owing to the high cost of lots they settled for the present site. The original portion of the present church was a rough, unpainted frame building. Chairs were used for pews, no organ and no choir loft. This modest structure was heated with a stove. The original structure was completed under the supervision of Rev. Father E. DeWilde who was administrator from 1903 to 1905.

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No major repairs were undertaken to the church building until the pastorate of Father J. T. Dunbar. In 1936 under Father Dunbar's supervision the church was remodelled. It was opened, taking in what was previously the pastor's living quarters, Ten-Test and wall board being applied throughout. During this same period the rectory was moved to its present site and placed on a permanent foundation.

In the year 1940 the interior of the parish hall was completely remodeled and after a few years, asbestos siding and asphalt shingles were applied to the exterior. At present the hall is taking care of all the social activities of the parish.

During the summer of 1952 major repairs and enlargements were made to the church building. The improvements, under the capable supervision of Mr. J. A. C. D'Appolonia, almost doubled the seating capacity.

As a matter of history, the first burial was that of John Simon who died April 29, 1902. The first Sacrament of Baptism was administered to Charles Ambrose Montalbetti who was born October 3, 1898. The first marriage was solemnized September 8, 1902. The contracting parties were Carol Montalbetti and Mary Sartoris.

Priests who labored in the parish from its small beginnings were Father A. Blanchet, Father Lepine, Father DeWilde, Father Lajat, Father Delestre, Father Crociato, Father Dargan, Father Bujalski, Father McCormick, Father Spekmaier, Father Lehman and Father Dunbar. Dean L. Sullivan is the present pastor.

During the past fifty years of parish activity, 485 burials were held from the church, 548 marriages were solemnized and 1,975 baptisms were administered.

L. SULLIVAN.

THANK YOU

The Coleman Board of Trade thanks the following organizations for their financial contributions toward defraying 50th Anniversary expenses, as of June 11th, 1953:

Rebekahs	Polish Democratic Association
Elks Lodge	Order of the Royal Purple
Pythian Sisters	Russian Canadians Association
Polish Society	Ladies' Auxiliary of the Canadian Legion
Polish Combatant League	Italian Lodge
Italian Ladies' Lodge	Ukrainian Society

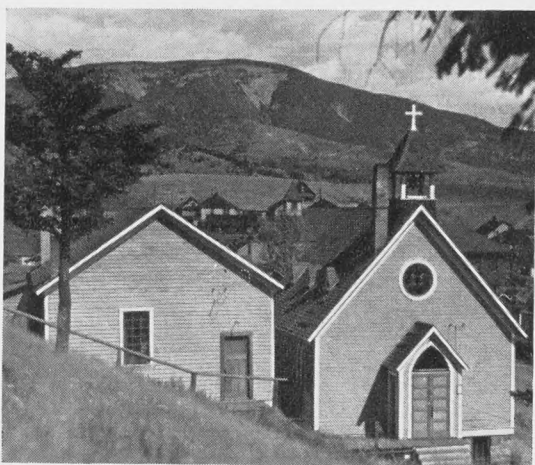
And also two private individuals who prefer to remain anonymous.

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THE HISTORY OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN THE CROW'S NEST PASS

The Anglican Church records as preserved in St. Alban's Church, Coleman, give the following data:



ANGLICAN CHURCH

ary 10th, 1904. Anglican Church services were also held in Frank and Blairmore. The Parish of St. Luke's, Frank (now Blairmore) was organized October 10th, 1904, and St. Alban's, Coleman, on October 11th, 1904. The church wardens were Dr. J. Westwood, M.D., and Finlay.

St. Alban's Church, Coleman, was opened on August 5th, 1906. The Rev. Webb from Ponoka began his ministry Feb. 3rd, 1907, followed by the Reverend W. MacMorine. In 1911 things were in a bad state owing to the strike and it appears that church services were maintained by varied clergy men and laymen coming in to assist. These included the Rev. A. B. N. Crowther, M.A., priest in charge of Michel; Leslie Fordham, B.Sc. Eng. a lay reader; the Rev. D. G. Schofield, M.A. (Oxon). The Rev. D. J. Watkins Jones, M.A. (Durham), began his incumbency on April 21st, 1912, remaining until August, 1914, and church services were held in Coleman, Blairmore Frank, Hillcrest and Bellevue.

The Parish of St. Francis, Hillcrest, was formed and a new church built in 1912. The parish hall was built at Coleman. A terrible disaster occurred at the Hillcrest Mine, June 19th, 1914, when 189 lost their lives, only 40 escaping. Twenty-nine burials are recorded in the church parish registers. The Rev. R. J. Shirer followed the Rev. Watkin-Jones and began his ministry on Sept. 6th, 1914, but left to take up war chaplaincy duties in the following June with the C.E.F. The Rev. H. Clay arrived on June 21st, 1915, from England and served throughout the war years until 1920.

In April, 1903, the Reverend F. G. Rickard was sent to open up church work at Frank and Blairmore. Arriving immediately after the disastrous Frank Slide (April 29th, 1903), the confusion resulting and departure of many inhabitants made it appear inexpedient to remain.

The Reverend Rawlings Alfred Robinson was appointed Incumbent of the Mission Jan 1st, 1904, making Coleman his headquarters. First church services were held by him on Janu-

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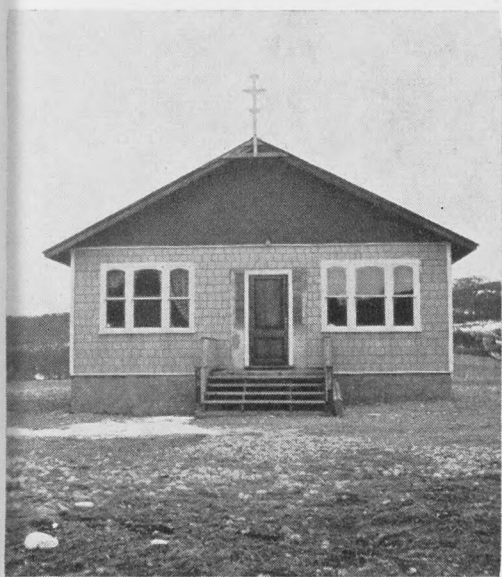
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LETHBRIDGE

SMITH MOTORS LTD.
LETHBRIDGE

New solid oak pews and a sanctuary chair were installed in St. Alban's Church in 1916, the result of the faithful work done by Mrs. F. G. Graham, a devoted member of the church, and the members of the Guild. The Rev. Canon A. D. Currie came to the parish and remained until 1930. He was followed by the Rev. A. S. Partington, who was rector until 1938.

Items of interest to old-timers may be first records in the Anglican Church registers. The first baptisms recorded are those of: Charles Frank Phillips of Frank, born August 8th, 1904, baptized Sept. 4th, 1904, by the Rev. R. A. Robinson; Olive Evans of Coleman, born August 17th, 1904, baptized Dec. 4th, 1904. Frank Charles Gainey was married to Agnes Florence Thomson of Coleman on January 25th, 1905. The burial is recorded of John Campbell, at the age of 45, carpenter, on Jan. 17th, 1904. And the following were confirmed by Bishop Cyprian Pinkham of Calgary on November 26th, 1905: Fanny Goddard, Jeanette Frances Mills, Isabelle Laird, Ethel Laird, Marion Smart.

List of Incumbents, St. Alban's Church, Coleman



GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. F. G. Rickard	1903
Rev. R. A. Robinson	1904
Rev. E. H. Webb	1907
Rev. W. MacMoline	1909
Rev. Watkin-Jones	1912
Rev. R. J. Shirer	1914
Rev. H. Clay	1915
Rev. W. N. Walker	1921
Rev. A. W. Neal (student) ..	1923
Rev. H. L. Nobbs	1925
Rev. A. D. Currie	1926
Rev. A. S. Partington	1930
Rev. R. Hague	1938
Rev. W. E. Brown	1944
Rev. L. S. Grazier	1946
Rev. L. S. Mann	1947
Rev. A. S. Dewdney	1948
Rev. H. Moss	1950

In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy path.

Prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve Him only: and He will deliver you.—I Sam. 7:3.

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JOE PLANTE REMINISCES

(By his son, W. V. Plante)

**JOE PLANTE IN HIS YOUNGER DAYS**

Joe first went through the Pass in 1900, at which time the area from Pincher Creek west to Bullhead was nothing but a cattle trail, with but a pack trail from Bullhead to Cranbrook. The vast area from Bullhead to Turtle Mountain was a gigantic bull pasture. This pasture was fenced on the summit and at the opening gate at Frank. The towns of Fernie and Michel consisted of but a few shacks. Throughout the district between Cowley and Coleman were thousands of sheep grazing on the short stubble

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COLEMAN CAFE**Knight Lumber Co. Ltd.****CROW'S NEST**

One of the first sheep grazers, Vic Lalonde, is now residing at Fernie. Joe Plante played the role of cowpuncher, bringing in large herds of horses from Montana en route to Northern Alberta. These herds were driven along the pack trails between Michel and Elko. This area was heavily fringed with cedars and ferns. McLaren's Lumber Co. was one of Coleman's earliest industries and was located opposite the new Municipal Hospital.

Joe worked in Fernie until 1903, when he came to Coleman as a carpenter. The Coleman Cafe and the building which now is known as the Modern Electric are part of the first construction he took part in. Remembering back, Joe recalls the time when it took a month to haul a carload of coal from York Creek to town, for sample purposes. Now trainloads of high grade steam coal are shipped from the Pass daily.

Some of Joe's early friends are Jim McElliget, Fred Lee and his brother Henry, now residing in Blairmore; George "Bull" Gladstone and Tom Hewett, recently deceased. Joe worked in the mines and lumber camps and broke all the horses for the R.C.M.P. detachment east to Macleod.

Joe and Harry Antle bought the livery and draying business from Harry Villeneuve in 1911. Their first delivery job was hauling stone for the foundation of the English church. On this job they had to make their own road before they could do any hauling. In 1912 Joe and Harry bought the first two autos in the Pass.

In 1912 Joe married the former Miss Mabel E. Johnson, daughter of one of the original R.N.W.M.P.

Joe's and Harry's strong bond of partnership was ended when Harry died in 1939. Today Joe is still with the C.P.R. and is seen every morning delivering express.

WEST COLEMAN STORY

An old-timer living today in the west section of Coleman remembers the day when he alighted from a slow-moving C.P.R. railway train and was greeted by a small box-car-like station. No taxi to bring him to his future home, as he did not have that home to go to. The small bit of land that the railway station house had been erected on had been cleared of trees and brush, but the surrounding land was thick with vegetation. Walking along the track was the best policy as no roads or even paths were available. A friend had living quarters west of the railway station and was hospitable enough to board the newcomer. They lived in a temporary home that had been built on land cleared by hand, and contained the bare necessities of life and lighting fuel for lighting homes at eventide was a very precious possession.

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The provincial main highway, if one would care to consider it a highway lay north of our present day town and it was a rare treat to go joggeling over it in a horse and buggy. The mountainside of rock that was much later blasted to form part of the provincial highway, extended to the railway. The West Coleman section consisted of three living quarters when our first immigrant came to become part of the community. These homes were built in the section of West Coleman now known as First Street. The rest of that territory was brush and trees and our present day Second Street was swamp and marshes.

There was very little progress or population increase until World War I when coal became an immediate essential. This led to more work for people and more settlers. By 1920 a school was built and new streets began to make an appearance. The main street of that section was extended farther north and a general store was at the inhabitants' disposal. Land was cleared, swamps were filled, streets were made, homes were built and the main provincial highway passed close by in the years that followed. Today this section of town is a well settled suburb of Coleman and has grown so in population that an extension of the West Coleman school commences immediately after the closing of the term.

A TRUE STORY THAT HAPPENED IN COLEMAN

About mid-afternoon a car came speeding west up Main Street leaving a cloud of dust behind it. The driver was desperate, because police were hot on his trail. A trap had been set for him. Another policeman was waiting for him out in the middle of the road by the Coleman Hardware and fired his gun in the air in an attempt to stop the man, but nothing was going to stop him. A second car took up the chase but luck was with the speedster as he zoomed across the railway tracks a split second before a passenger train. This was the break that tied up his pursuers long enough for him to make his escape. The father of the desperate driver was told that his son was shot or wounded and he in turn came to Coleman and showed the policeman who was supposed to have done the alleged shooting, while his children stood by the door watching. The gunman was convicted and hanged.

Yes, this did happen in Coleman, a chapter taken from the famous Picarello case.

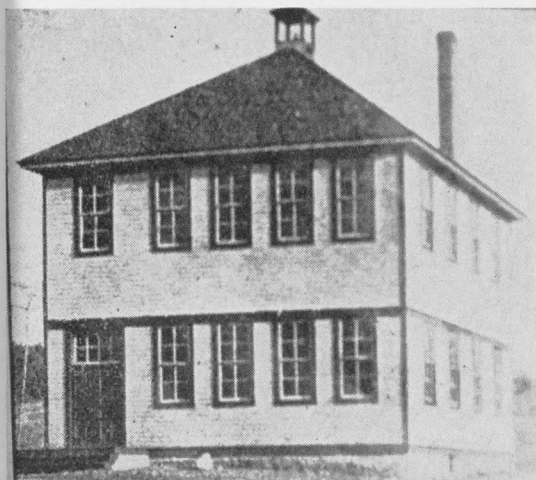
NEZ PERCE CREEK

The creek that is Coleman's water supply, called the Nez Perce Creek was named after the Indian Tribe that hunted in this area.

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**COLEMAN CENTRAL
SCHOOL, 1905**

OUR SCHOOLS

(By Mr. H. Allen)

Information for the history of the schools of Coleman must be obtained from old record books, these minutes record only the bare details, they fail to introduce the human element, the clash of wills, the spark of humor. Any attempt to go into the details of educational development in the town of Coleman would result in an endless repetition of staff changes and school board members. Undoubtedly the printing of names of past teachers would cause many an old-timer a pang of nostalgia, memories of acts performed or not performed would be recalled. The peculiarities and virtues of this teacher and that teacher would be brought to mind.

Prior to 1905 Coleman schools were included in the Blairmore School District and were operated under the supervision of the Blairmore board. How many of the old-timers remember the first school operated in 1904, held in the Anglican Mission Hall with Miss Nettie McIntyre as teacher? By 1905, Coleman's spirit of independence had asserted itself and on March 1st, 1905, by an order issued by the government of the North-West Territories, the Coleman School District No. 1216 was formed with Mr. A. E. Cameron elected chairman by Trustees R. A. Robinson and F. G. Graham. The first secretary-treasurer was R. A. Robinson and the first official act of the board was to appoint Miss Alice Cameron as teacher at a salary of \$60.00 per month. Bremner's Hall was rented for a school room and the board borrowed \$30.00 from the Union Bank of Canada to meet current expenses.

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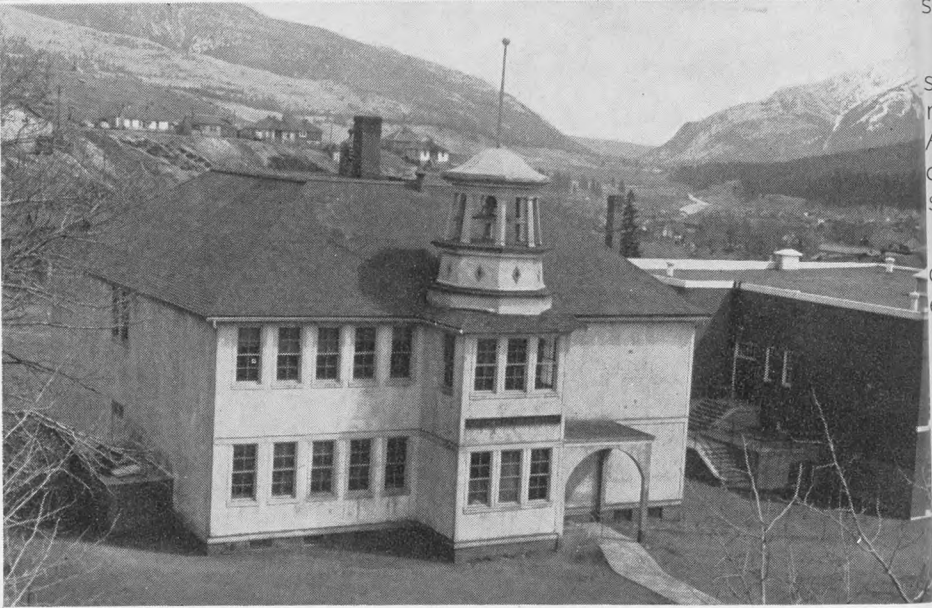
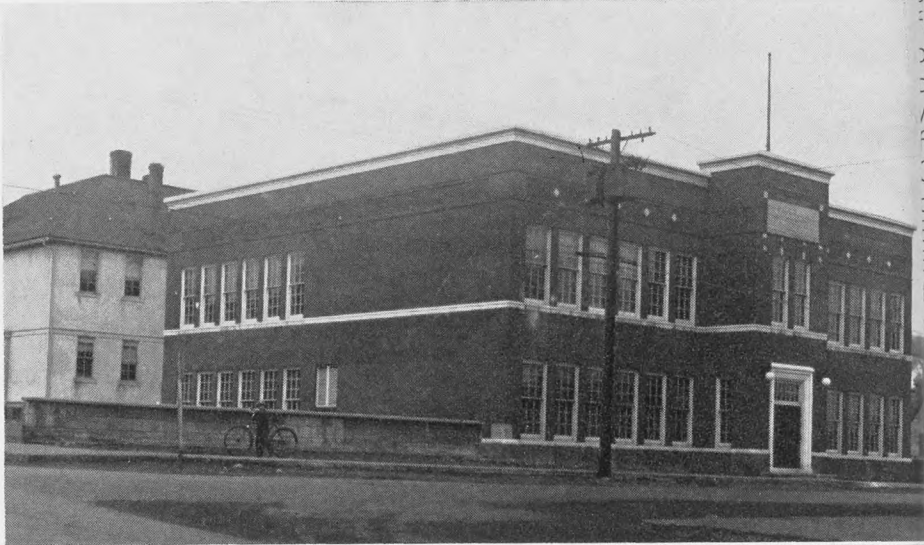
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EDMONTON

COLEMAN HIGH SCHOOL



COLEMAN CENTRAL SCHOOL

By June of the same year the first court of revision was held and twenty-five disgruntled citizens appealed their assessments. Some were away satisfied. Financing for the first year sounds like a pipe dream to present administrative bodies. The tax rate was set at four mills, tot

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CALGARY - ALBERTA

operating costs for the year were \$1,940.00. By August, 1905, the tender for the erection of the first school was awarded to Mr. E. Disney at a price of \$2,158.00. How would today's school board chairman like to buy seating accommodation for fifty-six pupils and a teacher's desk for \$156.00. This was the offer made by the Coleman Mercantile Company with the added feature of supplying adequate equipment for an additional sum of \$56.00. On October 16th, 1905, the school was formally opened. Expansion was rapid and by February, 1906, a second teacher, Miss Kate McNab, was appointed. By October 2nd, 1906, tenders for a third school room were awarded to Mr. E. Disney at a price of \$687.00 and Mr. George Snyder was appointed as the first principal. In March, 1909 a fourth teacher was added, by 1912 the name of Mr. W. H. Haysom appeared as trustee of the Coleman School District.

It is of special interest in 1953 to note that on April 20th, 1911, the school board purchased three gross of medals to be presented to the children to commemorate the coronation of King George V. It was resolved in 1913 by motion of Mr. A. Cameron, seconded by Mr. D. Hyslop "That the use of slates be discontinued in the school and that the board purchase one hundred scribblers to be given to students who could not afford to purchase them."

The period from 1905 to 1913 was one of continual change and expansion. Teachers were not engaged on an annual basis but contracts ran from month to month. Consequently the turnover in teachers was quite high. Advertisements for teachers were generally put in the Toronto Daily Globe, any attempt to record the names of principals and teachers would be tiresome.

It was in 1914 that the name of Mr. J. O. C. McDonald first appeared on the school board—the same year that the School Board decided to hold evening technical classes in mining, with Mr. Peter Allen as instructor.

Almost from the first year of the School District reference is made to "Continuation Classes," but by 1914 there were classes up to Grade XI. Financial problems were grave at the outbreak of the First Great War and Coleman was forced to call for a reduction in staff, salaries and services. In 1916 Mr. James Ford was appointed secretary-treasurer of the district, a position that he was to successfully fill for a long period of time. It was in 1915 that Mr. William Fraser served his first of many terms as a member of the board.

All too vividly will many remember when in 1918 the school building was vacated as an educational institution and turned over to the local health authorities as a temporary hospital during the "flu" epidemic.

By 1919 the spirit of co-operation settled on the Pass and the Deputy Minister of Education was to visit the area with a view to establish a "District High School." After some discussion with the boards concerned the matter

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was dropped. This scheme was again revived in the thirties and was again under discussion in the fifties. Public opinion on the issue is still divided and only the future can give the answer to this proposal.

In 1921 the population of the town had increased to the point where it was necessary to open a four-roomed school in West Coleman. Two years later Miss Anne Yuill became associated with the school and her influence was exercised until her retirement in 1951. In 1925 the district decided to honor its veteran school board member by naming the West Coleman school "Cameron School" in honor of Mr. A. Cameron. This new school gave the town fourteen rooms which proved sufficient accommodation until 1936. In 1936 the present high school was opened which afforded an extra six classrooms and an auditorium. This new building was a credit to the board. It gave the town a school building superior to any other in the Pass. Of particular merit is the auditorium, a facility that has given the students of the town immeasurable service, both as a physical training centre and a focal point for recreational-cultural activities. This building, coupled with a trained and enthusiastic staff, has provided Coleman students with extra-curricular activities such as operettas, dramatics, gymnastics and folk-dances. Activities such as these have made Coleman students an asset to post-school organizations.

In 1953 with an enrolment that promises to approach the 700 mark, the present board, under the chairmanship of Mr. Melvin Cornett, will add another two rooms to the Cameron School. Coleman, in keeping with other towns, has the perplexing problem of providing accommodation for an ever-increasing school population. Following the spirit of the earlier board, recent school administrative bodies are meeting the demands of the present with such facilities as buses and an ever-increasing staff to keep up the standard of the schools.

Buildings and physical assets merely represent the calibre of men who have given their time and energies to school affairs. One could not complete a record of the schools without referring to some of the board members whose long term of service call for mention: Mr. A. Cameron, Mr. F. G. Graham, Mr. J. O. C. McDonald, Mr. Wm. Fraser, Mr. Wm. Haysom, Major Hyslop, Mr. Jas. Ford, Mr. Geo. Evans, Mr. D. Holly, Mr. M. Cornett. There are others too numerous to mention whose names are associated with the development of our school system.

To the hundreds of students who have passed through the schools there are some teachers who, through length of service or other characteristics, will always be remembered by the graduates. In the primary department the personalities of Mrs. Clifford and Miss M. Dunlop have made school something to be remembered by the little folk. Principals we have known include Mr. Ross Powell, who since his stay in Coleman has been on the

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(Plant at Crow's Nest)

LETHBRIDGE

ALBERTA

staff of the Calgary School Board; Mr. Owen Williams, who has just concluded a successful career as an official of the Department of Education; Mr. Wesley Watts, who later became a successful medical practitioner; Mr. William Moore, scholarly but inflexible; Mr. David Hoyle, who presided over school affairs from 1927 to 1949, and whose educational, administrative and cultural policies are greatly responsible for laying today's academic structure. The success of an institution is dependent upon the stability of its staff and Coleman has been very fortunate in having members who have been with the school for twenty years or more: Miss M. Dunlop, Mr. R. A. Spillers and Mr. J. A. McDonald. The majority of the remainder of the staff has been with the board for ten or more years.

The last fifty years has seen the staff increase from one to twenty-three, the school population rise from fifty students to six hundred and fifty students, the annual budget from two thousand dollars to over one hundred thousand dollar mark. Facilities and services have been extended to include full high school training with such additions as typewriting and bookkeeping. Graduates of the Coleman schools have been successful in the various professions, trades and other phases of life. Coleman can be proud of its education record over the past fifty years.

POST OFFICE

Our first Post Office was located where the Red and White of today stands. Later it was moved to where the Cameron Block is now, but burned down in 1905. Next location was next to Gentile's Shoe Shop and then to where Chalmers' Jewellery Store is now. From there it has settled to where it stands today, doing business under the capable guidance of Frank Graham. His predecessors were J. C. Mylntyre, Mr. Morrison and Frank's father, the late F. G. Graham.

NOTES OF INTEREST

In 1905 the tax rate was three mills; in 1906 the tax rate was eight mills. In 1905 lights were installed. In 1908 sidewalk was built along school property. In 1906 town constable was paid \$510 a year. In 1907 town policed by Mounties. In 1910 steel cells were bought for Town Hall. In 1909 curfew was inaugurated.

The Roman Catholic Church contains a crucifix presented by Father Lacombe.

HOTELS

One of the best hotels between Winnipeg and Vancouver in 1903 was the Coleman Hotel. Other hotels were the Pacific Hotel, now known as the Empire, and the Grand Union. Total rooms for the three hotels is 93.

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HARRY BOULTON

One of our respected citizens to whom our Fiftieth Anniversary holds special significance is Harry Boulton, for it is just fifty years ago since Harry first came to Coleman.

He left his native Perth, Ontario, in 1903 on the "Harvest Excursion" special. After helping the farmers harvest their grain he secured employment at McLaren's sawmill, three miles east of town. Coleman was just starting to build and the lumber used was purchased from this mill. He then got a job driving team for a contractor who was putting in the side track for the International Coal Co. and while on this job he hauled timber for the first tippie built in Coleman.

In 1914 he entered the forestry service as assistant to T. F. Blefge, George Ritchie and Jack Morgan, succeeding Morgan in 1916 as chief forest ranger of the Pass.

Ranger Boulton was one of the key figures in the discovery of the R.C.A.F. twin-engined Dakota which crashed on Mt. Ptolemy on Jan. 2, 1946, killing the seven men aboard. Boulton, along with James McElliege and Bill Liddell, scoured the countryside on snowshoes until they came upon the wrecked plane, 10 miles from Coleman in the York Creek District.

Harry has been an ardent curler and has won many a trophy.

On April 30, 1947, after spending his entire 33 years of forestry service in the Pass, Harry retired.

He resides with his wife on a small ranch west of town and still takes an active interest in all that's going on in the "old home town."

In a cocktail bar a customer asked for a large whisky, remarking to the barman that he was trying to recover from a late night.

"Soda, sir?" asked the barman, as he served the drink and pushed forward a siphon.

"Heavens, no," said the customer. "I couldn't stand the sound of it hissing."

We read of more and more speechless banquets. Think of the people that keeps from walking out.

If you're a person who won't stop at anything, keep out of automobiles.

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TOURIST HI-LITES

It is only fitting to include in Coleman's 50th Anniversary a little story on the Slide. It may be said that the expansion and development of surrounding towns boomed after the Slide and today's history of Coleman may have read differently if the disaster had not struck the community of Frank.

It is recorded that at 4 a.m. on April 29th, 1903, a terrific wind was blowing at the town of Frank. Presently the houses were violently shaken with a twisting motion for several minutes. This was followed by a crashing report and a succession of thumping noises, accompanied by a noise comparable to the escape of a vast body of steam under pressure. The wind snapped trees like matches, and with a roar that deafened and paralyzed, the mass of rock swept across the valley.

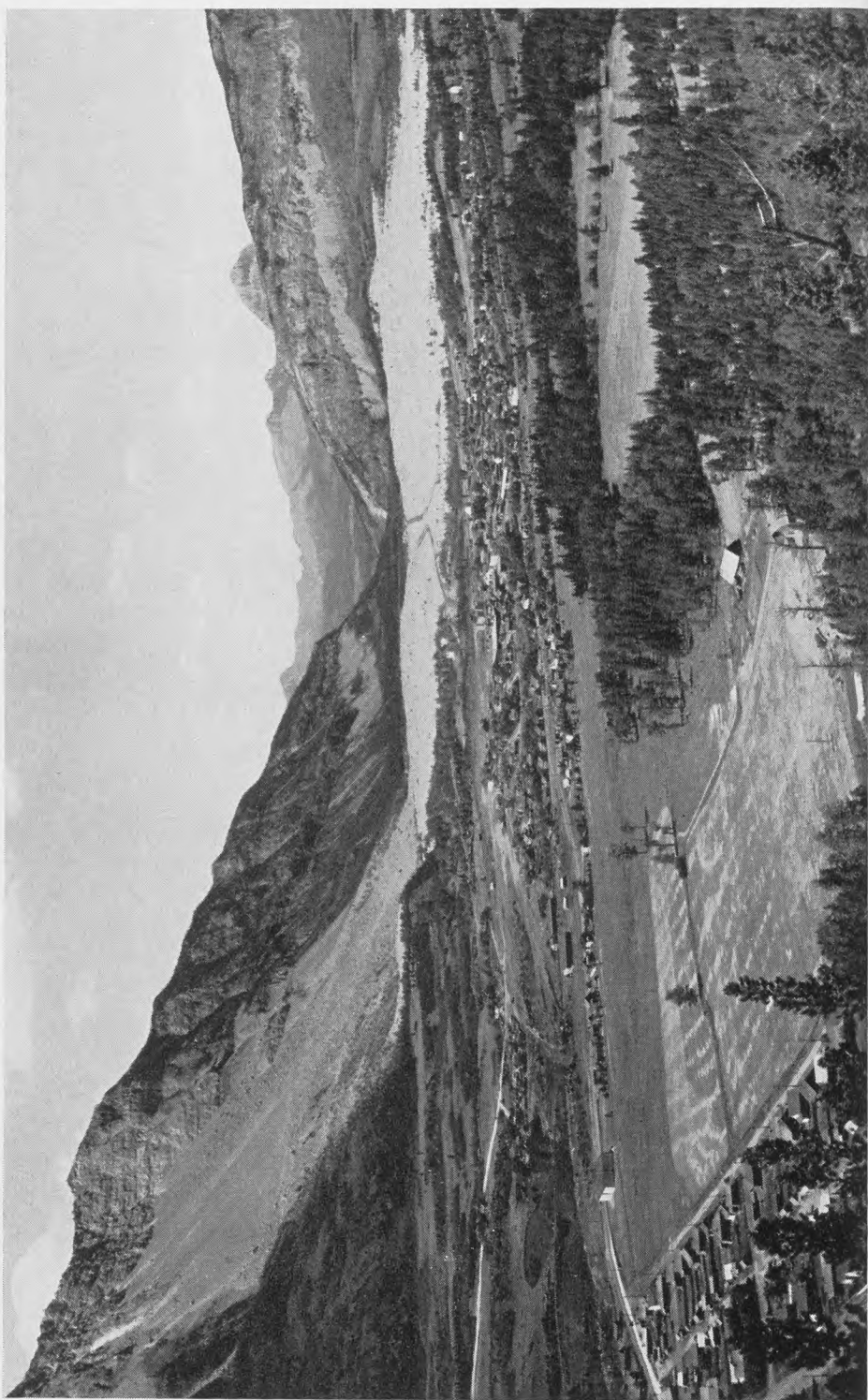
The town of Frank is located at the foot of Turtle Mountain, which is an almost perpendicular wall of limestone and rises to a height of 3,000 feet. The Crow's Nest River flows along the base of the mountain, and a valley lies between Turtle Mountain and the mountains to the north.



WILD LIFE JUST NORTH OF COLEMAN

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COLEMAN COLLIERIES



FRANK SLIDE

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A coal mine extended in a parallel direction along the side of Turtle Mountain, and it was over the workings of the mine that the mountain fell away. The imprisoned miners escaped by digging their way to the surface from the upper workings.

A wedge of limestone judged at 70 million tons and measuring about 1,300 feet from top to bottom, and 2,400 feet in width, suddenly dropped from the side of the mountain. The largest portion of the wedge estimated at 500 feet thick struck the inclined base of the mountain with such force that the impact broke the large rocks and threw the mass with terrific speed across the valley a distance of almost two miles, and 500 feet up the opposite side. It covered approximately 3,200 acres of fertile land to a depth of 100 feet.

A switch engine in the mine yard barely crossed a bridge when the mountain came down carrying away the entire mine operating plant. The tippie, boiler and engine house, electric light plant, railway scales, shops, and a row of coke ovens vanished in a rain of rocks. Over a mile of railway trackage was covered by debris and lost. On the edge of the slide fire broke out in the wreckage adding to the desolation.

The Crow's Nest River dammed by the rock, filled the large hole that was gouged out by the slide at the base of the mountain, and formed what is now known as Frank Lake.

Many homes were destroyed and a construction crew's camp was covered up. An estimate is that 38 men, 8 women and 20 children were killed, and many left without food and clothing.



FRANK SLIDE

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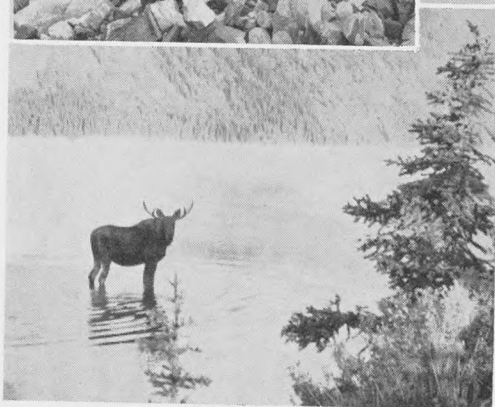
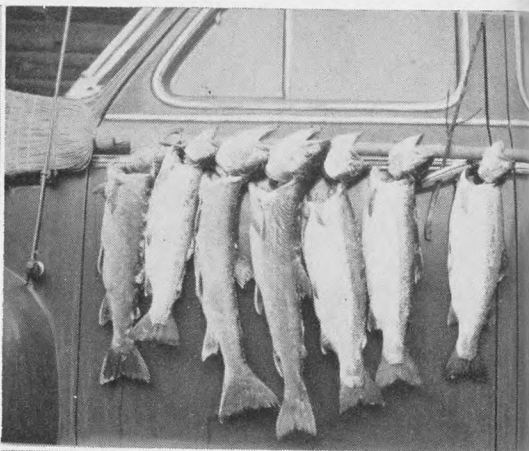
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THE TOURIST INDUSTRY

Gold is where you find it. Today in 1953 as in 1903 Coleman depends solely on the coal industry for its livelihood. Tomorrow Coleman may have another industry, the tourist. The tourist industry holds undreamed opportunities to any enterprising business man. Right here in the Crow's Nest Pass we have scenery that rivals any in the world. True enough, the commercial end has been held back due to lack of good roads but now this obstacle has been overcome with the completion of a first class highway last year. Already two local men, Mr. Clarence Huffman and Mr. Jim Kerr have built a number of modern cabins. They have selected for their cabin sites two of the beauty spots of the Pass. Huffman's Cabins have been built along the west shore line of Crow's Nest Lake, nestled under towering Sentinel Mountain. Kerr's Cabins have been set with the majestic grandeur of the Crow's Nest and Sleeping Giant Mountains as a background.



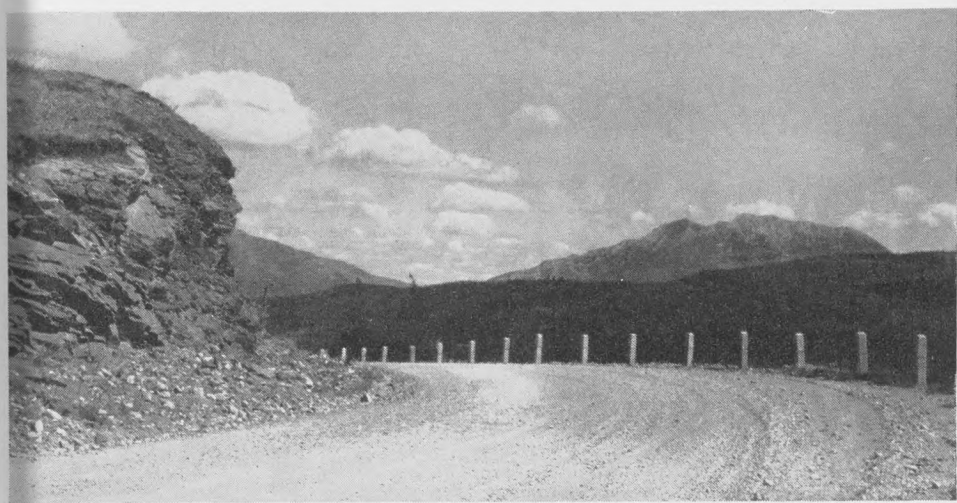
SPORTSMAN'S PARADISE

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"We Entertain the Pass"



SLEEPING GIANT MOUNTAIN

With attractions such as the Cave (source of the Old Man River), hiking, horseback riding, boating, good fishing, swimming, good hunting amid a peaceful, beautiful setting such as only Mother Nature can give, these men cannot help but be successful. Their cabins are an asset to Coleman. No, Coleman does not have to dig for gold, they have it all around them just waiting for someone to cash in.

MUSIC

(By Alice Buckna)

From the days that Colemanites would sit in Coleman's first movie house of silent films listening to the popular hit tunes of the day played on an upright piano by a one-man orchestra, to the present day that enthusiastic students of music travel an almost two hundred mile round trip to listen to the world's best music performed by such artists as William Warfield, Gorgy Sandor and others, Coleman has made musical progress.

Speaking to people who enjoyed town choirs, and singing at home sessions, one follows the growth of choral interest from the time the first choir was organized and conducted by Thomas Leyson. It became an established organization and was conducted in later years by William Lees, Robert Evans, Joe Emmerson and Owen Williams. It was then left disorganized for a short while but with the coming of Dr. Rose to Coleman to practice medicine it once more became effective. This body of singers participated in the Crow's Nest Pass Musical Festivals in Blairmore, gave concerts in the Coleman Community Hall and was available for Remembrance Day services.

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COLEMAN

A. WILSON, Manager

Mrs. Duncanson, who lived in Coleman for three years, continued where Dr. Rose left off, and with her departure Mrs. J. R. Hill became the able conductor. To date it is disorganized but we hope to hear it again in the very near future.

The Ukrainian choir, conducted by the Malanchuk Bros., performs regular concerts in their own nationality, and a Polish choir was also in effect last year.

Vocal tuition is available in this town and is attracting the attention of musically-minded parents and children and they play an important part in any of the local school concerts and musical recitals.

The instrumental end of Coleman has improved in recent years and although it is limited to piano, piano accordion and violin, it has a good number of followers.

John Pietraszko was the first and only Colemanite to leave Canada to go to Europe, the seat of all culture, to further his musical studies. After having won all possible entries in the music festival and encouraging praise from the adjudicators, he left for Poland, the land of his parents, in 1936. Warsaw was his destination, and the Warsaw Conservatory of Music was the most appropriate centre for someone as ambitious as John. There he studied violin, harmony history, concertizing and conducting. His letters to home were filled with zest and zeal and the future looked promising. Tragedy struck in Warsaw when Hitler's troops marched there and everyone, including the Canadian was helpless. Anxiety, fear and hunger faced the student on every side, but by sheer luck he was able to escape to Genoa, Italy. Illness began to show its ill effects and hospitalization and an operation were necessary. It was sad, shocking news that informed his family and the town of Coleman of his death in a hospital in Genoa.

Freda Antrobus, a familiar name for all Coleman, chose music as her life's work. She left to further her musical studies at the Toronto Conservatory of Music. She studied voice and piano there and was awarded a scholarship the second year she was there. She soon began establishing herself as a singer in that city and appeared on trans-Canada recital time from the Toronto studios, was sent on a cultural tour of small Ontario towns by that province's government and later was a candidate on the popular "Singing Stars of Tomorrow" radio program. She later married Godfrey Rideout, an active member of all Toronto's musical activities, and she is at present a member of the teaching faculty of the Toronto Conservatory of Music.

Frances Dibble, another Colemanite, is at present a student at the Toronto Conservatory of Music. Her musical interests were first instilled by Coleman school concerts and variety concerts. She also studied the piano as a young girl, and after having completed commercial studies in Calgary

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LETHBRIDGE

she began working there. She also began the study of music seriously and all her spare time was devoted to this. Having won all the possible competitions at the Calgary Musical Festival and a scholarship at the Banff School of Fine Arts, she decided to continue her musical studies at the Conservatory. We all congratulate Miss Dibble for her ambitious venture and wish her every success possible.

On a lighter vein and of perhaps less matter, but nevertheless of local interest was the winning of a Western Board silver medal by Miss Lenore Dutil of Coleman for having obtained the highest marks in the Grade VII piano examinations in Alberta.

Miss Dolores McLean, who is at present a student at the University of Alberta, was awarded a silver medal for the highest marks in the musical history examinations in Alberta in 1949 and Miss Delina Celli for having obtained the highest marks in musical theory in 1950.

The school teachers and students have always played an important part in the musical entertainment of the town with their annual Christmas plays, Red Cross concerts and operettas.

Coleman's first piper settled here in 1907. Thomas Whilan from Longreggend, Scotland, had won an amateur piping championship at the age of seventeen. In 1925 a band under the leadership of Alan Penman was organized and Mr. Nelson Flemming, a present day resident of Coleman, was an active member of that band. The group was well organized and a regular Saturday parade was given for the citizens of the town. This was disbanded at a later date, but was reorganized in 1944 by Piper Moore, and Miss M. Johnston is its efficient secretary.

The brass band, although at present not considered a Coleman band, as it consists of members from all the Pass towns, is conducted by W. Goodwin of Coleman. The first band was organized in Coleman by D. Banks in 1910. Different conductors in the form of G. Beddington, F. Beddington, A. Easton, J. Foulton, J. Pearson and finally J. Lowe were always very generous with their time and ability in leading the bands. Approximately twelve men who enlisted in the services during World War II were members of the A.T. 20 Band at Red Deer where a military camp was established. Freddie Beddington, who is living in Edmonton, was a member of the outstanding R.C.A.F. band in Ottawa during the war years and is at present a member of the brass section in the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. Ronnie Collogrosso, also a Coleman boy, is a present member of the Kitsolano Boys' Brass Band in Vancouver.

A debut in Town Hall in New York. This is an achievement that every artist on this continent casts longing glances at, through the years of their musical development. Town Hall, the New York recital centre, where debuts

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THE PASS HERALD

MARGARET TARCOY, Proprietor

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are given by every type of artist from every corner of the globe, where the musical greats are first launched on a life of success and fame.

It would hardly seem possible that someone who lived in Coleman would ever reach Town Hall and have the critics acclaim her as an artist of finesse. Yet Mary Baron has reached the ultimate goal. In February, 1952, with Reginald Boardman at the piano, Mary Baron gave her recital debut. Here the music critics of the world are gathered and their approval or disapproval determine your future career. She presented a recital of German lieder by Johannes Brahms, and the critics praised her ability. Today Mary Baron is a celebrity of the National Concert and Artists Corporation, a music agency that arranges concert bookings for some of the finest artists on the continent. A section alone could be devoted to this outstanding personage and people who remember her as a young girl in the early twenties entertaining Coleman with piano solos and songs may well think of her today as a professional Canadian artist.

There is, however, one more phase to be developed musically in the town of Coleman and in the writer's estimation perhaps the most important phase of all musical development. This is the bringing of good musical performances to the masses. A person need not have studied an instrument or spent long hours of practicing to be able to enjoy a good musician's ability. They need not be familiar with the world's musical giants, but they should be able to sit and listen to something that is performed with perfection and be able to say "I really enjoyed that." When Goethe wrote "without music life would be a mistake," no truer words could have been spoken. The study of music and the listening to good music performed by artists without a doubt enriches one's emotional and cultural life. It establishes an appreciation for the finer and better things of life and helps make the world a more beautiful place to live in.

THE BILL ANTLE STORY

It was back in 1909, when Bill Antle came to Coleman from Saskatchewan, to join the others to build the community of Coleman. Bill first worked for the Gibson Sawmills, which were up around the Knowles Ranch. His job was hauling lumber for the first homes being built. Bill remembers the main road running south on Carbondale Hill across the tracks and following the south side of the tracks into town. On one of these trips Bill recalls being thrown off the wagon by a runaway team and his ankle being run over by the wagon wheel. He was taken to town, for medical attention, taped up, and given crutches, then driven back in a democrat (a wagon pulled by two horses). He finished his shift in misery. Later when he joined the army they found his ankle was cracked.

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COLEMAN HOTEL

A. GENTILE, Manager

In 1912, after the mill closed down, Bill went to work for Joe Plante and Harry Antle, who had taken over the livery business. The Nez Perce Creek at that time used to run all year round and abounded with fish. Today this creek is dry except for the spring run-off. Not only was fishing good, but Bill remembers hunting was excellent on Main Street. It has been known for certain parties to shoot four chickens on Main Street in the morning and have them for supper. Later it was found that these chickens were the property of a Chinese living by the Livery Stables. Bill goes on to say that there wasn't much money floating around but there was a lot of fun and no end to hospitality.

Bill joined the army and came back to Coleman in 1918 and worked in the McGillivray Mine until 1921, when he got married. Then he worked for the Forestry Branch for 13 years. One of the big forest fires was in 1923, which wiped out forest up in Dead Man's Canyon. Bill was stationed at the Gap for seven years and remembers the time he found a series of holes teeming with fish. For a year Bill pulled out fish requirements to supply his family until some fisherman trailed him. That was the end of his private fishing holes. One of the fish stories he remembers is the time Mr. Vaughn and Mr. Bartlett of Blairmore came by as he was frying a few over an open fire. They asked Bill where they could catch such beauties and Bill replied that all they had to do was put a couple of grasshoppers in the pan and the fish would jump into the pan. At that time there was no bridge over the Old Man River and Bill recalls a time when a carload of picnickers got stuck fording the river. They borrowed some telephone wire and the party of eight got on the end of the wire and were doing quite nicely until the wire snapped. You can imagine the rest. Another one was when Bert McEwen, being a hero, was carrying a woman across the river and slipped. Incidentally Bert is in the jewellery business in Coleman to this day.

Game was plentiful and Bill remembers his son going out in the back yard and walking around herding the deer.

In 1934 Bill succeeded the late Jack Houghten in his duties as town policeman and fire chief and has been town policeman for 18 years. During this period everybody's troubles have been Bill's. There have been two armed holdups, one unsolved murder, one axe killing, and many other crimes. Everyone knows his job is a thankless one and a position that is not envied. Bill has done a fine job and will always be remembered by Colemanites.

We'd rather see an auto run 20 miles to the gallon than 85 miles to the pint.

For the sake of doctors, we gladly tell you that it's not against the law to call one before midnight.

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HOME PROVISIONERS

BLAIRMORE & LETHBRIDGE

RIALTO POOL ROOM

TOMMY LLOYD, Proprietor

HOSPITALS AND DOCTORS



THE OLD HOSPITAL

Our first doctor was Dr. Westwood. Later came Doctors Davis, Ro Tolime, Borden and McLean, and still later that the younger generation remembers well are Dr. Aiello, Keyes, Claxton, Rose, Maynes, Haworth and Hopegill. Today in 1953, we have Dr. Leisemer, Dr. Aiello and I Bryant, our local dentist. Our first nurse was Mrs. Woods.

The Miners' Hospital was built in 1908 and served Coleman well, until April 5, 1949, when the CNP Municipal Hospital was opened between Coleman and Blairmore.

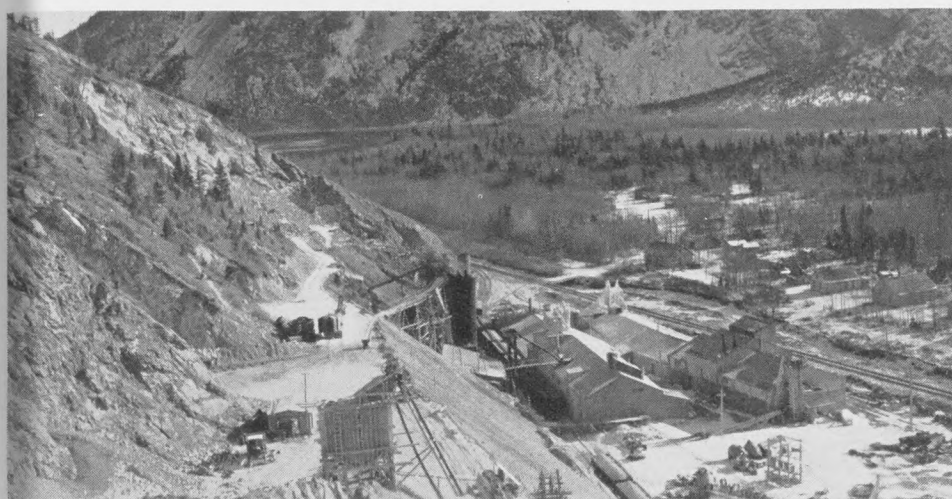


THE NEW C.N.P. MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL

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GROCERIES AND MEATS
COLEMAN**



SUMMIT LIME WORKS

Nestling at the base of a mountain of limestone, nine miles west of Coleman, is the plant of Summit Lime Works Limited. The plant was first established in 1903 by the late Mr. E. G. Hazell and is carried on by his family today. The daily capacity of the plant is 40 tons of lime and 250 tons of limestone. It handles three grades, lump lime, "Spreadwell" hydrated lime, "Red Flash" pulverized lime. There is sufficient raw material to extend the plant considerably should market conditions demand. At the present rate of operation there is enough raw material in sight for another hundred years.

At the present time there are 30 men employed. They consist mostly of Hungarians, Yugoslavs and Japanese. Some of the latter came from the Pacific coast and others have come from Raymond. The annual payroll is \$60,000. These men are quiet, industrious workers. In addition to wages the company provides rent-free homes, free water, free fuel, charges only a one dollar a month rate for electricity with no meters to record the amount consumed. Each Christmas employees with over six months regular employment are given a \$50 bonus while employees with less than six months are given a \$25 bonus.

Summit Lime Works stands ready to aid the industrial development of the Crow's Nest Pass whenever called upon.

Running alongside the base of the mountain and separating the plant and the mountain are the C.P.R. tracks. Approximately 100 yards south of the plant is No. 3 southern Trans-Canada Highway, thus making the workings easily accessible by rail or highway. Approximately 200 yards west of the plant is Crow's Nest Lake which can, if needed, provide an unlimited supply of water.

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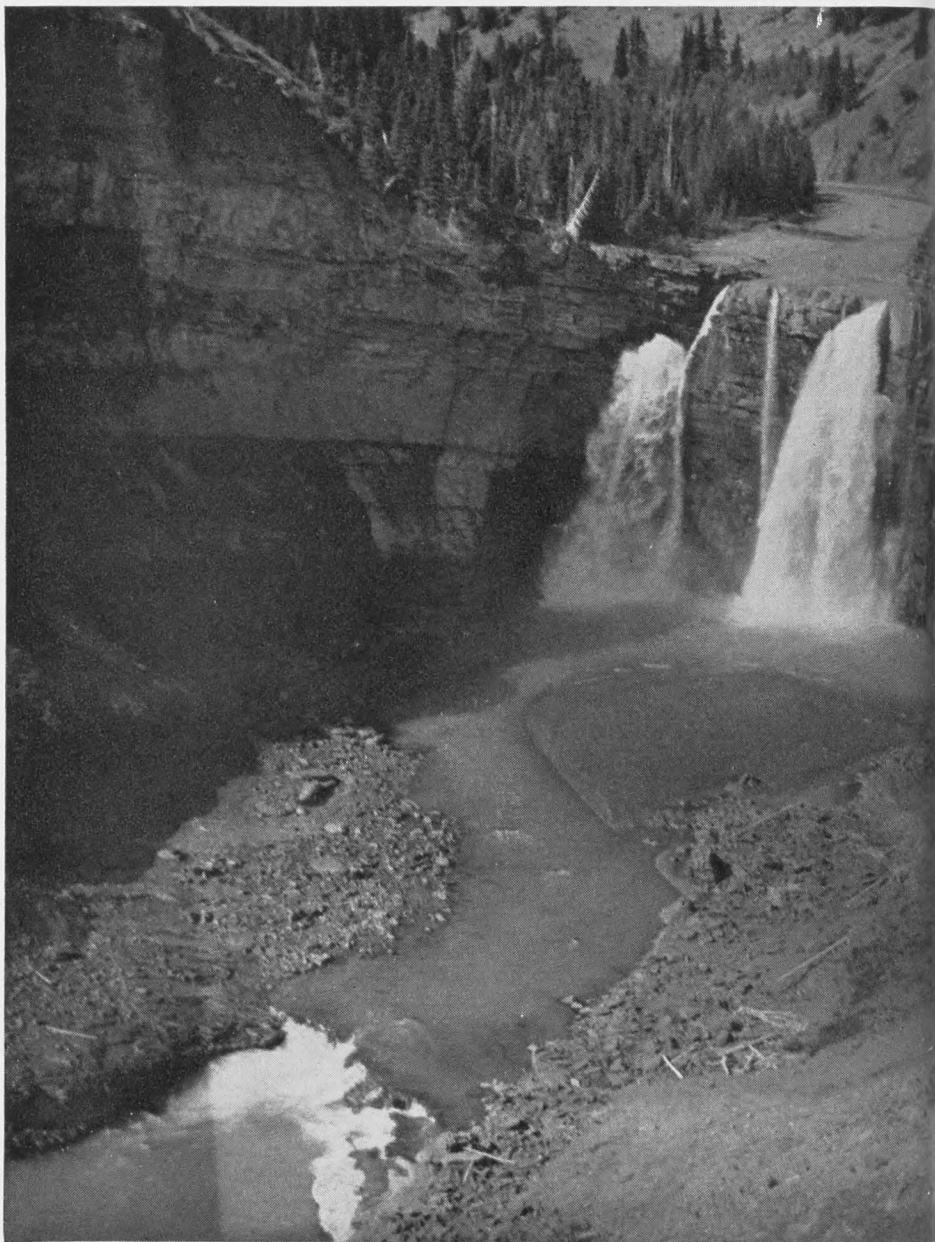
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LETHBRIDGE

FORESTRY

(By Mr. Del Hereford)

When Alberta became a province in 1905 the control of the natural resources remained with the Dominion government. Naturally, when as a direct result of the very widespread forest fires in 1910, Forest Reserves were set up and a Forest Service formed, it was an effort of the Dominion government in Ottawa.



SCENE ALONG THE KANANASKIS FORESTRY ROAD

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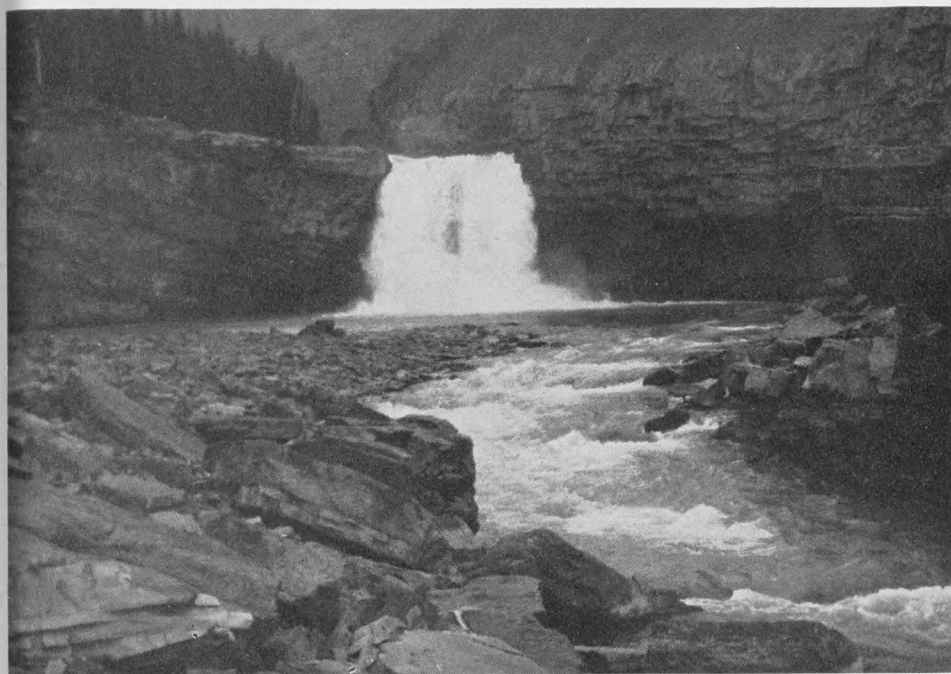
SICKS' LETHBRIDGE BREWERY LTD.

The first ranger to be appointed in Alberta was a Mr. Ritchie and he was stationed at Coleman for a short while with Teddy Blefghen as his assistant. He was later stationed in what is now the Castlemount district and Mr. Blefghen became the ranger in Coleman. Eventually Mr. Blefghen was transferred north to become superintendent of the Lesser Slave forest. He was brought south again to become assistant inspector in Calgary and on the transfer of the natural resources to the province in 1930-31, director of forestry in Edmonton until his retirement.

Meanwhile a forest headquarters had been set up in Pincher Creek and the Crow's Nest forest organized in 1912. Also in that year a ranger station was started just north of the town. It is now the cottage.

In 1913-14 Mr. J. P. Alexander, the present senior forest superintendent of the East Slope Reserves, was busy laying out the boundaries of the Crow's Nest forest. He later became superintendent of the Crow's Nest forest for a number of years and old-timers still remember him in the hockey wars of that time.

On Mr. Blefghen's transfer north, Harry Boulton became ranger at Coleman for some thirty years, taking an active part in the life of Coleman. Since he retired Irvin Frew, Al Freeman and Del Hereford have been his successors.



A SCENE ALONG THE KANANASKIS FORESTRY ROAD

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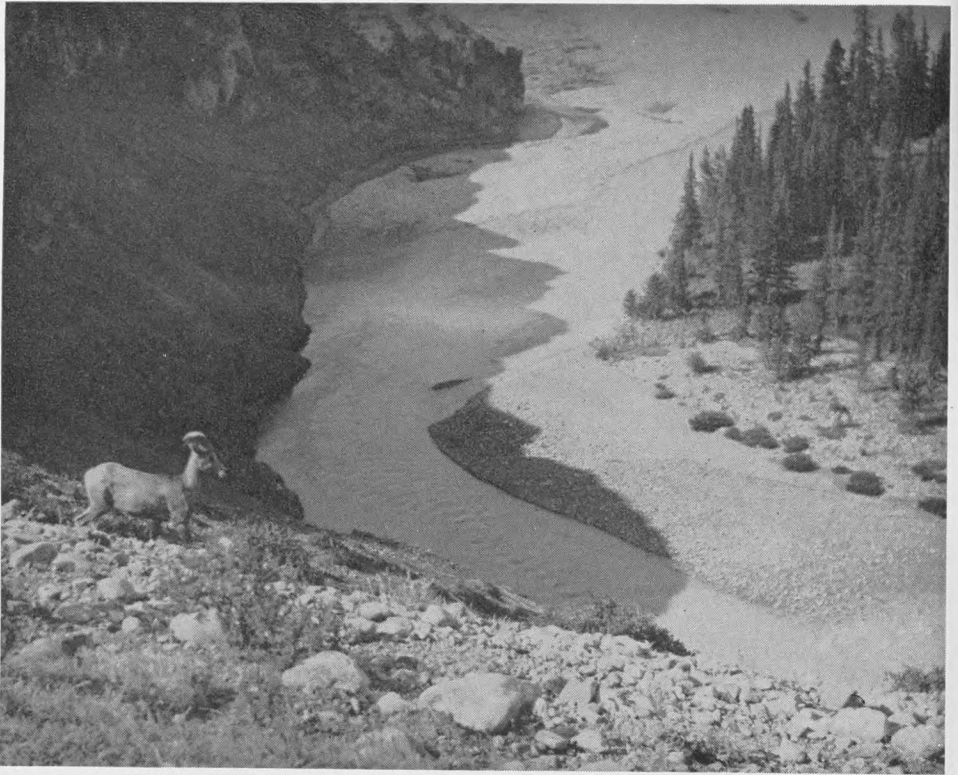
Edmonton

Lethbridge

**Chalmers Jewellery &
Electric Appliances**

COLEMAN

In 1949 the Province of Alberta and the Dominion government signed an agreement to form the East Slope Reserves which is the territory comprising the watershed of the North and South Saskatchewan Rivers. Control of this area was placed under a board of three members, one representing the Province of Alberta, one representing the Dominion government and a private member as a chairman. The Dominion government gave a capital grant of six million dollars for new improvements and the agreement was for 25 years.



WILD LIFE SCENE ALONG KANANASKIS FORESTRY ROAD

Many projects have been completed and more are in the process of being completed. One of the more familiar ones is the Kananaskis road north from Coleman through the Crow's Nest and Bow River forests and joining No. 1 Highway near Seebe. It is approximately 130 miles long and goes through very scenic country. It is gravelled and maintained. At strategic intervals shelters have been erected for the travelling public. There are no gas stations along its route so travellers must be sure they have plenty of gas before starting out. The trip over it is well worth while. It goes through a large, unspoiled country and let us be very careful not to spoil it by starting fires. It has been said that care with fire is the hallmark of good citizenship.

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COLEMAN

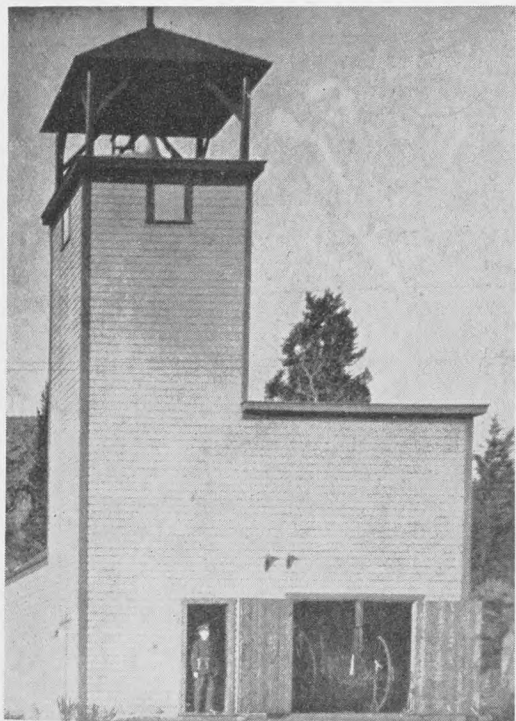
COLEMAN VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE



COLEMAN'S FIRST BRIGADE

In 1904 Coleman had already organized a fire department after a fire had destroyed what is now known as the Pattinson Block. Coleman from its beginning has realized the importance of a good fire department and never has lacked community-minded citizens to fill the ranks of the fire department. There have been gaps here and there through the years, but whenever an emergency arose these vacancies were quickly filled. In 1904, the water-

works system was installed and the hydrant pressure was 140 pounds per square inch. A fire hall was built to house necessary equipment. Some of the pioneer fire chiefs were Mr. F. C. Graham and N. R. Lloyd.



FIRST FIRE HALL

Through the years the fire department has been called to put out many fires, small ones and large ones. Some of the big ones have been quite recent, such as February 16th, 1948, when the Coleman Hardware went up in smoke along with five other buildings. One of these buildings was the Community Hall which was a great loss to the community and has not been replaced. Then another call on November 3rd, 1948, was a close one for the tippie at International. That one was put out pretty quick.

Another scorcher was December 15th, 1950, when the interior of the Roxy Theatre was destroyed. Yes,



COLEMAN VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE, 1953

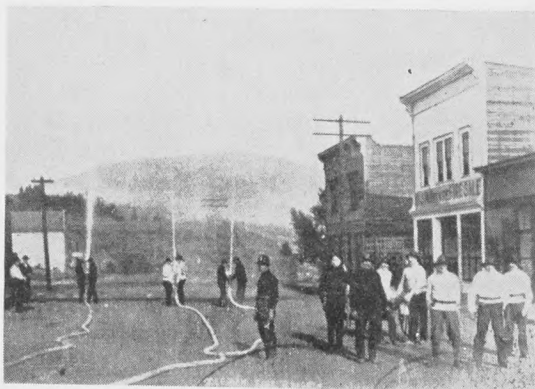
Standing, left to right: P. Berezinski, P. Pendziak, M. Kliza, A. Tosolini, G. Menisini, H. Zak Jr., T. Collister, G. Mizura, A. Delucca, C. Pilfold, E. Pivador, M. Taje, J. Wavrecan, F. Omelusik.
Kneeling, left to right: E. Ukrainitz, W. Holyk, A. Rybacokicz, A. Montalbette, C. Clarke, Joe Malanchuk, J. Kinnear.

the firemen could tell a lot of stories (tall ones too, if you let them) of how fires should be fought. Today in 1953, the department is a well organized unit capable of handling any emergency. The equipment is pretty good too.

The present brigade consists of a regular force of 20 men who are conditioned fire fighters and hold regular weekly training and practice, not only for themselves but to bring up new recruits to the fine standard now achieved by the regular force. In addition to this the brigade has undertaken the work of training auxiliary fire fighting teams for East Coleman and Willow Drive. Aldo Montalbette fills the position of fire chief.

A few other items of interest in connection with our fire department is that the firemen complained about not hearing the fire bell, so the council

bought a huge siren. The last fire on April 5th, 1953, the assistant fire chief's wife, Balbina Malanchuk, had to phone some of the firemen to wake them up after a second alarm was blown. This one will take those firemen the next 50 years to live down (or maybe they shouldn't blow the siren at 3:30 in the morning).



FIRST HOSE TEAM

The volunteer fire department has progressed with the times and promises to be one of the best in Southern Alberta.



MAIN STREET FIRE, 1948

List of fire equipment: Ford fire truck; 2000 feet of two and a half inch hose; 2,000 feet of one and a half inch hose; 35 foot aluminum ladder (extension); two gas masks; portable extinguishers; 27 hydrants throughout the town with static pressure of 125 to 140 pounds per square inch. Water is obtained from a 450,000 gallon dam on the creek above the townsite, supplemented by pumping from Crow's Nest River.



THE LAST PICTURE OF THE COMMUNITY HALL

COLEMAN COLLIERIES
LETHBRIDGE AND FERNIE



FIRST BASEBALL TEAM

Top Row: Bill Carmichael, Barney Stitt, Sam Ingram.

Middle Row: Luther Nightingale, Alex Grisak, Billy McGuiness, Harry Higgins, Billy Stevenson and Mascot Vince Hillan.

Bob Hogan (pitcher) not in picture.

BASEBALL

From its beginning Coleman had baseball. The first club was the Coleman Athletic Association of 1906-07. One game that will be remembered is the game played here with Moyie the day of the Fernie fire. Baseball held its own till 1923.

From 1923 to 1942 a Coleman team was entered in the Fernie Labor Day Tournament and captured first money 14 out of 19 years. Coaching this team from its early days was Angelo Gentile who now manages the Coleman Hotel. Angelo had the boys lined up something like this: Catcher, Dinah Gate; pitcher, Lefty Louie Polychuk; first base, Johnnie Ferko; second base, Bob Hoggan; short stop, Babs Johnston; third base, Pete Kelly; centre field, Frank Cosgrove; left field, Dutch Singer; right field, Jim Griffiths.

Angelo remembers Frank Cosgrove pulling off many sensational catches. He remembers Dodger Louis the year he struck out 23 men in a \$1,000 tournament in Michel in 1933. Dodger Louis also chalked up a record of 27 wins out of 28 one year. One of our top hitters was Bill (Dinah) Gate. Angelo goes on to say that one of his best hitters was also one of the laziest or vice versa. Jerry Seaman, who has long performed in semi-pro circles, was a local boy who made good.

In the last few years the Cubs, an aggregation of Japanese boys from the lime kilns, have performed in Coleman livery and their wizardry has had its effect with Coleman annexing the J. K. Ringland Cup five out of the last seven years. Lefty Kimoto, a great hitting pitcher, must indeed be ranked as one of the greatest players to don a Coleman uniform.



WINNERS OF MUTZ CUP, 1909

Back Row, left to right: R. Penman, D. Reid, R. Ramsay, S. McDonald, W. Kelly, A. Easton, J. Hunter, H. Gate, Wm. Irvine.

Middle row: D. Hall, G. Kellock, L. A. Manly, W. Banks, M. Daufaur, W. Roughead, W. Richardson.

Front Row: J. Penman, D. McFarlane.

Lying down: W. C. Jenkins, J. Emerson.

FOOTBALL

Coleman's first football team was organized in 1903. In those early days the whole town would close shop and head for the football game. Bets of \$100 on favorite teams were not uncommon. The sports field of those days is now the residential section of Sixth Street. Later the field was down town before the arena, Jimmie's Coffee Shop and other buildings were constructed. Bill Jenkins remembers the field being fenced off with bradish. The league of those early days embraced Pincher Creek, Lundbreck, Frank, Coleman and later Michel and Fernie. As it was with hockey, special trains brought spectators from all those points. Coleman was champion and challenged Winnipeg for the Western Canadian champion but, not being affiliated, were disqualified. Bill Jenkins says there were too many professionals on the team and they would have walked all over Winnipeg. The First World War slowed all sports down to a standstill. After the boys came back sports were revived.

In 1920 Coleman was considered provincial champions. Coleman was top dog for many more years but then Lady Luck moved her residence to some other centre and football in recent years, try as hard as they might, has been taking a back seat.

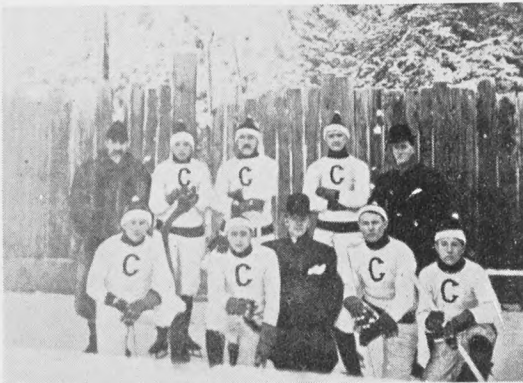
SWIMMING

Every community must have a white elephant at one time or another. Coleman had hers in a swimming pool. Today swimming is done mostly in West Coleman's swimming hole.

HOCKEY

Although pages could be written on the athletic endeavors of this sports-minded community since its founding, we shall endeavor to touch only the high spots in an illustrious half-century of athletic participation.

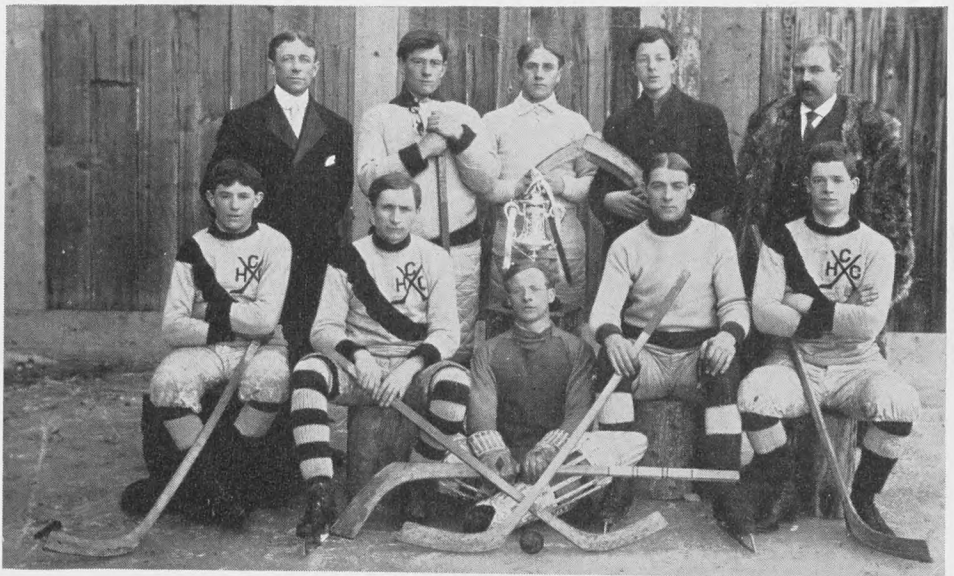
The first junior team in the highlight was when Coleman took the Western Canadian junior championship by beating Moyie, B.C., in 1907 and 1908. Names associated with that club were Pete Bakus, who incidentally, went pro at the age of 14; Arthur Graham, Charlie Graham, E. Tomkins, Willie Stafford and Laird. Coleman entered a team in the Western Canada Olympics at Rossland, B.C., in 1910. From semi-pro, Coleman turned intermediate.



FIRST HOCKEY TEAM

These first games were played on the open air rink where the tennis court of today stands. Incidentally, that hill alongside the tennis court was where the spectators sat and was called Scotchman's Hill.

One of the greatest teams to ever carry Coleman colors into the hockey wars was the great Selkirk team of 1923-24-25 which went east to Port Arthur in quest of the famed Allan Cup and lost by one goal in a total game series. Playing for this team on which there were no subs were: Goal, Goodwin; defense, Cumber and Daly; centre, Thornsteinson; left wing, F. Shepherd; right wing, N. Wasny.



COLEMAN INTERMEDIATES, 1909 - 1910

Top Row, left to right: Caruthers, J. Sims, J. Williams, Vince Hillan, Percy Willmot,
Bottom Row: C. Graham, C. Jewel, Bill Jenkins (sub-goalie for H. Holmes, A. Gresal, Alex Easton.

Of this lineup Goodwin went to Chicago Black Hawks, Nick Wasny went to Montreal Canadiens, Thornsteinson to New York Americans, Shepherd to Detroit Red Wings of the N.H.L. and Cumber went to California South Pacific League and Daly went to Winnipeg Maroons. Bill Wright was at the helm of this team. W. S. Purvis was one of the fans that went east to see this thrilling hockey action. Mr. Purvis still resides in Coleman. Seats were always at a premium and it was a common sight to see spectators sitting on the rafters. Special trains brought rabid fans from all corners of the Pass to watch the members of the four-team league, Coleman, Blairmore, Bellevue and Lethbridge do their stuff. Many N.H.L.-ers and future pro stars from this league included Dutch Gainor, Tiny Thompson, Reg Mackie, Doc Barber and Bill Turner. Other local boys that took the spotlight at one time or another were Charlie Graham, Mickey Brennan and Jimmy Evans.

The hockey tradition has been carried on and the Coleman Canadians which performed in the Alberta senior circuit in the late thirties and early forties provided many thrills. One that many remember is the great Drumheller game in 1935 in which the hard fighting Canadians came from behind a two-goal deficit in a total game series to cap the series by three goals. All this happened in the third period with Shorty Jenkins starring for the Canadians. The Canadians performed many notable feats including the defeat of Kimberley the year they won the Allan Cup and the two time defeat of the Trail Smoke Eaters in their Allan Cup year. Players who later hit the big time were Joe Fisher, going to Detroit, Dan Sprout to Cleveland as captain and still active with Seattle and Hermie Gruhn to the Pacific league. Intermediate clubs have brought honors to Coleman, capturing the Western Canada titles in 1944, 1946 and 1947. In the minor ranks Coleman midgets captured the Alberta "B" title in 1949-50 and since this time minor clubs have been in contention for Alberta honors every year.

Coleman has also had honors brought to it by a women's hockey team, the Coleman Shamrocks, who lost the Alberta championship by a fluke goal.



SIXTH STREET, 1904

HORSE RACING

Horse racing was held on what today is Sixth Street with riders such as Rattlesnake Pete, George Davidson and Murray being the talk of the west. Another jockey who later became a world celebrity had his start in Coleman, the one and only Joe Wolfe, jockey of the famous Sea Biscuit.

CURLING

Our first curling was done on an open air rink where the tennis court of today stands. In 1920 a curling rink was built in conjunction with the arena. A few years ago a genuine, hard-working, sports-minded citizen undertook to move the curling rink to its present location of today. With the help

of a handful of men they cut timber, had them made into rough lumber and built one of the finest curling rinks in Southern Alberta for the sum of \$2,700.00, half of which went for roofing. Coleman is indeed grateful to Mr. Andrew Dow, whose name will always be remembered by sportsmen of our community. Today in 1953 plans are being formulated for artificial ice for the curling rink.

TENNIS

Tennis was introduced to Coleman by Mr. Pollack, who was an English professional. This sport has always had a high place and names such as D. J. McIntyre, Mr. Ewing (bank manager of the B.N.A. Trust Bank), Mr. Parks (druggist) are connected with the early days of tennis. A little later old-timers will remember L. Lindo, R. Barnes, J. McLeod. In 1926 Mrs. W. S. Purvis and Mrs. Kerr brought the Southern Alberta doubles championship to Coleman. Today Bill Balloch, Chick Roughead, Dick Shone and many others have kept Coleman's name high in tennis circles.

Badminton, basketball, tug-of-war, foot racing, billiards, bowling, horse-shoe pitching, Italian bowling, quoiting, high jumping, lacrosse have all had outstanding artists too numerous to mention and have brought trophies back to Coleman at one time or another.

BOXING AND WRESTLING

Coleman has had its share of honors in these sports. Names such as Jim Burrows, C. Robinson, Jimmy O'Brien, Hector McDonald are linked with earlier days of boxing. Then not so long ago with Frank Baringham as promoter, Colemanites will remember Bill Russel, Campbell Stuart and Saint. Then in the wrestling world men such as Jack Taylor and Swanson made great names for themselves.



THE MAGNIFICENT CROW'S NEST MOUNTAIN

COLEMAN LOCAL UNION 2633
DISTRICT 18, U. M. W. of A.

IN REMEMBRANCE

As we reminisce through the past 50 years, it is only fitting that we dedicate our thoughts to those boys who laid down their lives in the last two wars. They made the supreme sacrifice so that we may enjoy the freedom of today. These are your Coleman boys who might have been here today. May they rest in peace.

1914 - 1918

J. A. Price
J. H. Williams
M. Odgers
W. Anderson
R. Turner
C. F. Dunlop
J. A. Josephs
E. Reid
W. H. Kent
J. P. Gregory
H. Claes
L. Henriët
J. Gurin
C. Mitchell
W. Maggs
E. E. Blaes
H. Trette

1939 - 1945

W. Nimcan
C. J. Kroesing
G. C. Morris
L. J. Jankulak
T. J. Brennan
J. W. MacQuarrie
J. Rogers
A. MacDonald
W. Harrison
M. Rucka
P. J. Gandy
R. H. Grewcutt
A. F. Dickson
R. K. McLeod

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**COLEMAN LOCAL UNION 2633
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We hope our many readers have found some measure of enjoyment from our little souvenir booklet. We deeply regret any omissions which were not intentional, but largely due to a shortage of time and space.

COLEMAN BOARD OF TRADE,
William Holyk, Advertising Chairman.



The Lethbridge Herald